

55 من الامارات

20

THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,865

TUESDAY 9 MARCH 1999

(1R50p) 45p

JOHN BIRT IS REVEILED AND RIDICULED. BUT HE'S RIGHT
IAN HARGREAVES
MEDIA, TUESDAY
REVIEW PAGE 12



SHEER ART ATTACK
UNVEILED: THE POLLOCK SHOW
REVIEW FRONT

Ramblers win 50-year battle

THE GOVERNMENT infuriated landowners and delighted ramblers yesterday by announcing new legal rights to walk over open countryside, which were far more radical than expected.

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY AND COLIN BROWN

acres of countryside in England and Wales, defined as mountain, moorland, heath, downland and registered common land.

Landowners, who greeted the proposals with fury, will be able to object to new local access forums, which it is hoped, Mr Meacher said, will reach consensus on access. If agreement could not be reached, compulsion will be used, making it a criminal offence to con-

tinue to block rights of access. The new Countryside Agency being established for England this year and the Countryside Council for Wales, which will manage the forums county by county, will make the final decisions. They will map all the land covered by the new access, which could take years.

Mr Meacher told delighted Labour backbenchers the legislation would be brought in as soon as parliamentary time allowed as a "lasting tribute to the memory of John Smith", the former Labour leader and a keen hillwalker.

Tony Blair was suspected of wanting to cave in to landowners' demands for more modest voluntary agreements, but pressure from the Environment Department, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Labour backbench support for the forthcoming private member's "Right to Roam" Bill by Gordon Prentice, the MP for Pendle, have convinced Downing Street

of the need for a more radical line. Mr Meacher told MPs: "Over the past 50 years, a voluntary approach has delivered relatively little and, despite some commendable initiatives, there is little prospect of much new access being provided voluntarily in future. Only a new statutory right will deliver cost-effectively the extent and permanence of access we seek. We are convinced legislation is the only way to make sure people will be free in perpetuity to ex-

plore open countryside." Landowners could restrict access for up to 28 days each year for land management, such as heather burning or shooting. Other temporary or permanent closures might be made for nature conservation, protection of heritage sites, health and safety or defence.

Mr Meacher said the new Countryside Agency's first president would be Ewen Cameron, a Somerset landowner who is the immediate past president of the Country

Landowners Association. His successor as president, Norfolk landowner Ian MacNicol, said landowners would fight the move. He said: "We believe this to be the expropriation of private land rights."

Kate Ashbrook, head of the Ramblers' Association freedom to roam campaign, was "delighted" with what she called "an historic moment".

Parliament, page 8

Leading article and David Aaronovitch, Review, page 3

Tim

NOTE TO MINISTERS: RIGHT TO ROAM DOES NOT INCLUDE CLAPHAM COMMON.

Flashguns and tears as 'that woman' hits town

THEY HAD queued for ages - the star-struck, the sad, and the merely curious. They thronged in their hundreds to see Monica Lewinsky. It was bound to come to tears, and of course, briefly, it did.

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Some had been up before dawn. Others had elbowed their way to the front of the line that snaked around the books department at Harrods in London.

At the front, Anne Kersey, 39, a local Knightsbridge housewife, revealed with pride that she had also been the first to sign the Book of Condolence for Diana, Princess of Wales, at St James's Palace in September 1997. It was that sort of queue.

Ms Lewinsky was always going to be a big draw, but surely no one guessed that her appearance at the first signing of her biography, *Monica's Story*, would have been quite so mad. So hundreds of people were squeezed together, stumbling into books on the history of Cairo and Iranian art, as they

waited for the woman who called the United States President "butt-head" and to whom he referred as "that woman". Timothy Harris, 33, of Sacramento, California, said: "I think she has been dragged through the wringer, so all power to her. If she gets a pound or two of mine from her book that is fine by me."

The object of Mr Harris's generosity appeared at 12.30pm with a nervous smile for the hundreds of flashguns. Ms Lewinsky signed copies for the first five people, then the cameras were cleared and she left the room.

There was a murmur in the queue. Was she all right? There was talk of her wiping away tears. Was she coming back? Indeed she was. Twenty minutes later she reappeared, while the Harrods spokesman explained away her "touch of flu". With that, Ms Lewinsky took her seat at a large oak table and began with gusto to

sign her name for the next 395 lucky customers. Later, speaking to *The Independent*, Ms Lewinsky said she had been overcome by the event: "It's very bizarre. To lose your anonymity is something I would never before have imagined... I am here to help promote a book, *Monica's Story*, but it is not a very happy story. It's hard to handle." She said she was optimistic about the future. "In the long run I hope to certainly get married and have kids."

Will her notoriety hinder her?



The former White House intern Monica Lewinsky at Harrods yesterday to sign copies of 'Monica's Story', her official biography

Russell Boyce/Reuters

Brown to introduce energy tax on business

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

THE CHANCELLOR will announce plans today to tax the business use of gas, electricity and oil to raise an estimated £7bn and help Britain to meet its targets for reducing greenhouse gases.

Tony Blair met Gordon Brown twice yesterday to finalise the Budget package, adding to speculation that the Prime Minister intervened at an early stage to reduce the impact of tax changes on middle-class families.

But with most of the Budget papers already being printed, it is believed they were working on the final tone of the speech to be delivered to Parliament. In one key development, Mr Brown will end the prevarication over an energy tax by act-

ing on the conclusions of the report by Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, the chairman of British Airways, in favour of taxing big users of energy to help Britain meet multilateral emissions agreements. Labour's election manifesto pledged to

cut harmful carbon dioxide emissions, which produce global warming, by 2010. Business leaders are worried that the tax will create an advantage for foreign competitors, but they are braced for the announcement and have privately indicated that their criticism will be muted.

But the measure will be welcomed by environmentalists. It forms part of the Chancellor's "green" strategy agreed with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Brown will also announce a 6 per cent increase in fuel duties, underpinning Mr Prescott's efforts to persuade more commuters to abandon their cars and use public transport.

US share-owning, Business, page 16
Hamish McRae, Review, page 3

Police chief suspended over fatal shooting

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

A CHIEF CONSTABLE was suspended last night after an inquiry into the fatal police shooting of a man as he stood naked by his bed.

Paul Whitehouse, 55, the highly respected head of Sussex Police, is now almost certain to face disciplinary action with his deputy, Mark Jordan, 40, in a case involving an unprecedented number of senior officers. Mr Jordan was suspended last month. Sussex police authority is still considering the case of an Assistant Chief Constable, Nigel Yeo.

The officers are understood to face disciplinary charges relating to providing misleading and inaccurate information. Their suspensions follow two inquiries into the death of James Ashley, 39, who was shot in the chest by PC Chris Sherwood during a raid in January last year at his flat in Hastings, East Sussex. Mr Ashley was unarmed and had been in bed with a girlfriend. The Director of Public Prosecutions is considering whether to charge PC Sherwood with murder. The morning after the incident Mr



Whitehouse: Tribunal

Whitehouse said that the officers had been investigating drug trafficking and the attempted murder of a man stabbed outside a pub. He said that the man they were after was considered "armed and dangerous". It later emerged that Mr Ashley, far from being a murder suspect, had pulled the assailant off the victim and may have saved a life.

An inquiry last year by Hampshire police examined how the inaccurate and damaging information came to be broadcast. A statement yesterday by Sussex police authority said: "The authority has resolved that disciplinary proceedings need be taken against ... Paul Whitehouse and ... Mark Jordan."

The Police Complaints Authority has been asked to approve the suspension.

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Breast Implant scare
Implants filled with soy oil are banned over fears of toxic reactions
Home P3

Joe DiMaggio dies
Joe DiMaggio, baseball legend, has died in Florida, aged 84
Foreign P12

Mortgages 'mis-sold'
The ombudsman says Skipton Building Society mis-sold mortgages
Business P15

West Indies 51 all out
West Indies collapsed to their lowest Test score
Sport P26

Race for presidency
Rivals line up in contest to be next US president
Foreign P13

Terence Blacker
Comic Relief: do these sanctimonious celebs think they are?
Comment P4

Hamish McRae
A memo for the Chancellor
Comment P5

Surveys say...
...that women must be both macho and mummy to get ahead
Features P8

No Gimmicks, No Games, Just simple savings on your phone bill.

• Pay monthly by Direct Debit or Pre-Pay
• No need to change your phone or phone number

What would you expect from the fastest growing telecoms carrier in the world?
Communications Week International

NATIONAL RATES	5p
AUSTRIA	10p
CHINA	35p
HONG KONG	12p
INDIA	48p
ISRAEL	15p
JAPAN	16p
MALAYSIA	20p
MAURITIUS	40p
NZ / OZ	13p
RUSSIA	30p
SINGAPORE	18p
SOUTH AFRICA	31p
THAILAND	40p
UAE	38p
USA	7p

PRIMUS
GLOBAL network GLOBAL savings GLOBAL sense
Call free on 0800 036 0001

All prices shown are inclusive of VAT, are in pence per minute and have been rounded to the nearest penny. Calls are charged for the first twelve seconds, thereafter in sixty second increments. Calls from payphones and mobile phones may be subject to a surcharge. Paying by Direct Debit is subject to status.

FREE WITH THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

BUDGET REVIEW

SPECIAL 24-PAGE SUPPLEMENT WITH NEWS, COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

HAMISH MCRAE • JEREMY WARNER • DIANE COYLE • DONALD MCINTYRE • DEBORAH ORR • ANDRIAS WHITTAM SMITH

Howe to oppose Hague on euro

LORD HOWE, the former foreign secretary, will defy William Hague, the Conservative leader, this week by joining the leadership of the campaign aimed at persuading the British public to join the single European currency.

Tony Blair has endorsed the launch on Thursday of the "Yes" campaign by prominent businessmen, which he hopes will keep up the momentum towards British membership after he unveiled a national change-over plan two weeks ago.

Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, the most prominent pro-European Union Tory MPs, will not join the Britain in Europe campaign until after the European Parliament elections in June, in an attempt to limit Tory divisions ahead of the poll. But they have promised to play a leading role after the elections, when a full-scale Yes movement will be launched.

Lord Howe's immediate involvement as an "observer" on the group's board will anger Tory Eurosceptics. Some MPs may demand that he be deprived of the party whip.

The Britain in Europe group will run an information campaign during the Euro elections to counter Tory attacks on the single currency. The group insists it will produce "factual and politically neutral" material.

Britain in Europe will be chaired by Lord Marshall, the British Airways chairman and former president of the Confederation of British Industry. Other prominent businessmen will include Lord Hollick, chief

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

executive of United News and Media, Colin Sharman, chief executive of KPMG International, and Niall FitzGerald, chairman of Unilever.

"We believe Mr Blair came off the fence, now we are doing the same," said one organiser. The board will also include Giles Radice, the Labour MP who chairs the European Movement, and Michael Welsh, director of the Tory Action Centre for Europe, who will act as Mr Clarke's "eyes and ears".

Mr Hague's allies have threatened to expel Tories who endorse a breakaway Pro-Euro Conservative Party launched by two MEPs, John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly.

But Mr Hague is unlikely to discipline Lord Howe. "We will let party members make their own judgement; he will weaken his own case in the party by parading his views before the Euro elections," one Hague ally said last night.

Friends of Lord Howe insisted he was doing nothing wrong, since Mr Hague had promised supporters of the euro would remain free to state their views when Tory members backed the leadership's hard line in a ballot last autumn.

Lord Howe dismissed speculation that Eurosceptic Tories would support the rebel pro-euro candidate in the June poll. But he said he was "saddened" by the departure of Mr Stevens and Mr Donnelly and understood their reasons. He warned



William Hague, the Tory leader, at the launch in London yesterday of the Nott Commission. *Kalpesh Lathigra*

that their resignations "should send a clear and sombre signal to our party leadership".

However, the Prime Minister's statement has persuaded Mr Hague to risk another out-

break of Tory disunity by making the single currency a key issue in the Euro election. Yesterday Mr Hague set up a commission to investigate the positive case for Britain retaining the pound,

to be chaired by Sir John Nott, the former defence secretary. Mr Clarke said: "I don't think the European elections should be about the euro. If the Conservative Party makes it about

the euro, it's making a serious mistake." He accused Mr Hague's aides of "advertising Tory divisions" by claiming he would support the rebel Tories, which was "nonsense".

New pressure on IRA to give up arms to save deal

THE IRA and Sinn Féin last night were under mounting pressure from both London and Dublin to start laying down their arms amid new Anglo-Irish moves implementing other parts of the Good Friday Agreement.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday set a new deadline for a deal on setting up a new administration in Ulster. She confirmed that tomorrow's target date would not be met, but hoped for a settlement by 2 April, the anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

In London, Tony Blair's aides said he hoped that fixing a deadline rather than a target "would focus people's minds". He may travel to Belfast to handle last-minute negotiations, while Bill Clinton will try to broker a deal when Irish politicians gather in Washington next week for St Patrick's Day.

Yesterday Ms Mowlam was still clinging to hopes of progress before Easter, despite growing acrimony between Sinn Féin and Ulster Unionists, who do not want Sinn Féin to join the Stormont executive until the IRA has started to decommission its weapons.

Speaking in Dublin, she said: "In the timescale we have I think everyone is keen to give this process momentum. No one wants to go past Easter and into the marching season."

The Northern Ireland Secretary admitted there was no guarantee that a three-week breathing space would work. She said: "It's not me creating any collapse of the process or a danger period. It's in the parties' hands. After the 29th of March I don't like dealing in negatives, but we'll look again."

"I have no Plan B after the 29th but I believe there's a will, not only among the people North and South, but among the

BY ALAN MURDOCH
in Dublin
AND ANDREW GRICE

party leaders to make progress."

Dr Mowlam was attending the formal signing at Dublin Castle with David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, of four treaties launching the North-South bodies, a North-South ministerial council, a British-Irish council and an inter-governmental conference created under the Good Friday Agreement. The event highlighted how progress was being achieved on all fronts except the arms issue.

Referring to talks today between David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, Dr Mowlam said: "The building blocks are now in place and I believe that gives everyone the chance to walk down that road of peace leading to a non-violent future."

Mr Andrews said "one piece of the jigsaw remains. We are all aware that there remain great difficulties surrounding the formation of the executive. But these difficulties can and must be surmounted."

The effect was to add to the sense, encouraged by the Thelwell-Bertie Ahern in Dail statements and interviews, that the "next gesture" must come from the IRA. That sentiment was echoed in weekend remarks by the deputy first minister, Seamus Mallon of the SDLP, in which he said Sinn Féin had room to move in reaching a compromise.

The new bodies require the prior creation of the Stormont Executive, which will not emerge until the IRA arms issue is resolved. Failure to have the Executive in place by 2 April would increase the sense of deepening crisis.



Start learning, keep earning.

The world is changing around us. To stay ahead we need to keep learning. In many cases our careers depend on it. But who has time to take a break from work or family commitments in order to study?

Open University courses are designed with this in mind - a fact that is increasingly recognised by business and industry. The Open University has become a leading provider of learning for people who need to develop their careers. Employers (including IBM, Hewlett Packard, Abbey National and Lucas) often sponsor their staff to take OU courses.

You get a personal tutor and the chance to meet your fellow students. The OU's unique method of study - OU supported open learning - has proved successful and thoroughly enjoyable for the thousands of students who join us each year. It's real value for money, and you can pay by instalments.

Did you know?

- The OU is in the top 15% of all UK universities for teaching quality
- 25% of all British MBAs come from the OU
- Over 30,000 employers have sponsored their staff on OU courses
- 40,000 OU students are online from home
- There are 9 month courses and new diplomas as well as degrees

Send for your free prospectus now.

Send to: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK9 6AA. U99GD

☐ Please send me a copy of the Courses, Diplomas and BA/BSc Degrees prospectus

☐ Please send me a copy of the postgraduate prospectus

☐ Tick here if you have contacted the OU in the past.

Title: _____ Initials: _____ Surname: _____

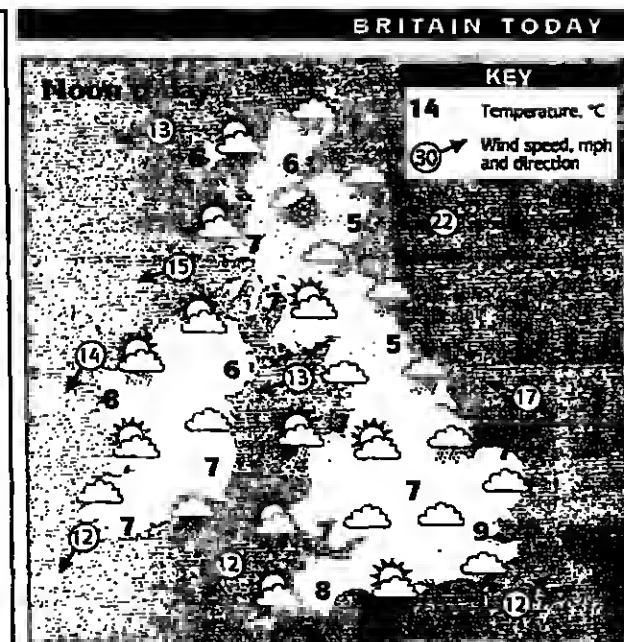
Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Tel: _____ Date of Birth: _____ / ____ / ____

OU Hotline (24 hours) 0870 9000 301

Website: www.open.ac.uk/adver/

THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE



FORECAST

General situation: Some rain will move across the extreme south-east, but the rest of the south, together with Wales and western England will be brighter with just the odd shower. Eastern England will be mostly cloudy with a little drizzle.

A few sunny breaks but cloud gathering at times to bring out or two showery outbreaks of rain. A light north-easterly wind. Max temp 6-8°C (43-46°F).

East of England, New England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A few sunny breaks but cloud gathering at times to bring out or two showery outbreaks of rain. A light north-easterly wind. Max temp 6-8°C (43-46°F).

SE England, Midlands, East of England, NW England: Mostly cloudy and dull with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle and some heavier bursts over the mountains. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some decent sunny spells, and only the odd isolated shower.

London, SE England, Channel Is: Another mainly cloudy day with some rain at first. This will eventually peter out to leave a drier afternoon. A light and variable wind. Max temp 6-10°C (43-50°F).

East of England, NW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A few sunny breaks but cloud gathering at times to bring out or two showery outbreaks of rain. A light north-easterly wind. Max temp 6-8°C (43-46°F).

SE England, Midlands, East of England, NW England: Mostly cloudy and dull with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle and some heavier bursts over the mountains. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some decent sunny spells, and only the odd isolated shower.

London, SE England, Channel Is: Another mainly cloudy day with some rain at first. This will eventually peter out to leave a drier afternoon. A light and variable wind. Max temp 6-10°C (43-50°F).

East of England, NW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A few sunny breaks but cloud gathering at times to bring out or two showery outbreaks of rain. A light north-easterly wind. Max temp 6-8°C (43-46°F).

SE England, Midlands, East of England, NW England: Mostly cloudy and dull with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle and some heavier bursts over the mountains. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some decent sunny spells, and only the odd isolated shower.

London, SE England, Channel Is: Another mainly cloudy day with some rain at first. This will eventually peter out to leave a drier afternoon. A light and variable wind. Max temp 6-10°C (43-50°F).

East of England, NW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A few sunny breaks but cloud gathering at times to bring out or two showery outbreaks of rain. A light north-easterly wind. Max temp 6-8°C (43-46°F).

SE England, Midlands, East of England, NW England: Mostly cloudy and dull with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle and some heavier bursts over the mountains. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some decent sunny spells, and only the odd isolated shower.

London, SE England, Channel Is: Another mainly cloudy day with some rain at first. This will eventually peter out to leave a drier afternoon. A light and variable wind. Max temp 6-10°C (43-50°F).

East of England, NW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A few sunny breaks but cloud gathering at times to bring out or two showery outbreaks of rain. A light north-easterly wind. Max temp 6-8°C (43-46°F).

SE England, Midlands, East of England, NW England: Mostly cloudy and dull with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle and some heavier bursts over the mountains. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some decent sunny spells, and only the odd isolated shower.

London, SE England, Channel Is: Another mainly cloudy day with some rain at first. This will eventually peter out to leave a drier afternoon. A light and variable wind. Max temp 6-10°C (43-50°F).

East of England, NW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A few sunny breaks but cloud gathering at times to bring out or two showery outbreaks of rain. A light north-easterly wind. Max temp 6-8°C (43-46°F).

SE England, Midlands, East of England, NW England: Mostly cloudy and dull with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle and some heavier bursts over the mountains. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some decent sunny spells, and only the odd isolated shower.

London, SE England, Channel Is: Another mainly cloudy day with some rain at first. This will eventually peter out to leave a drier afternoon. A light and variable wind. Max temp 6-10°C (43-50°F).

East of England, NW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A few sunny breaks but cloud gathering at times to bring out or two showery outbreaks of rain. A light north-easterly wind. Max temp 6-8°C (43-46°F).

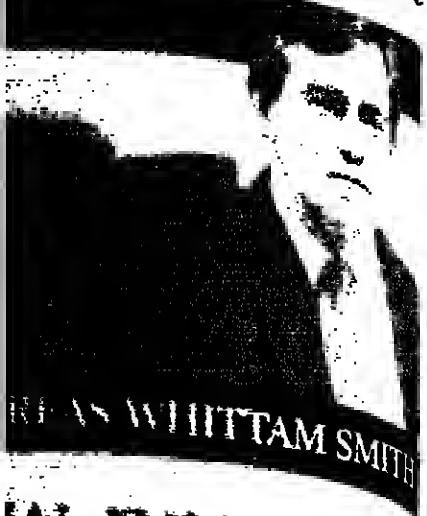
SE England, Midlands, East of England, NW England: Mostly cloudy and dull with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle and some heavier bursts over the mountains. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some decent sunny spells, and only the odd isolated shower.

London, SE England, Channel Is: Another mainly cloudy day with some rain at first. This will eventually peter out to leave a drier afternoon. A light and variable wind. Max temp 6-10°C (43-50°F).

East of England, NW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A few sunny breaks but cloud gathering at times to bring out or two showery outbreaks of rain. A light north-easterly wind. Max temp 6-8°C (43-46°F).

LIGHTING UP

LIGHTING UP			
Belfast	6.15pm	to	6.52am
Birmingham	6.00pm	to	6.35am
Bristol	6.04pm	to	6.37am
Glasgow	6.07pm	to	6.47am
London	5.54am	to	6.27am



Pressure
IRA to
up arms
save deal

From last week's...
IRA to...
up arms...
save deal...

Poison warning to 5,000 women as breast implant banned

BY ALAN MURPHY
AND ANDREW GIBB

BREAST IMPLANTS filled with soya oil given to 5,000 women to enhance their figures were withdrawn from sale yesterday because of fears that they could cause a toxic reaction.

The Health Department issued a warning over Trilucent implants, which have been on the market for four years, after receiving 74 reports of "adverse incidents". In some cases the implants ruptured, producing globules of an emulsified yogurt-like substance causing swelling. In a few instances they have become rancid and smelt.

Although all types of implant are liable to rupture, when oil leaks from the Trilucent implants it appears to react with the body, producing "biologically active substances".

About 8,000 women a year have breast implants. Experts said the number of soya-oil types was about one in six of the total. Around 70 per cent of Trilucent implants were done privately. NHS hospitals and clinics were told not to use any more and to return stocks.

The implants, introduced in 1995, were promoted by private cosmetic-surgery clinics after scares about the safety of the older silicone gel devices. However, silicone implants have been cleared after two government inquiries and an independent review.

David Sharpe, chairman of the Breast Special Interest Group of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons, said: "It is quite worrying for patients with the implants, because they are the ones scared about silicone gel, so they are more sensitive to the issue." In cases where the oil leaked and formed the "emulsified product like yogurt" which collected in the breast, it could cause inflammation. "It's a natural oil put in an unnatural place and it's not behaving in the way they thought it would," Jeremy Met-

ters, deputy Government Chief Medical Officer, said all women with the implants should consult their doctor for advice but there was no need for them to take immediate action unless they experienced symptoms. "There has been no evidence of permanent injury or harm to health. However, on the precautionary principle we consider that no more of these devices should be implanted."

Dr Metters said investigations were continuing so that further advice could be given to women who already had the implants. For women who are worried, the Health Department has set up a help line, which will be open for the next three days, on 0800 004440.

The latest warning will renew fears about the safety of all breast implants, which have been the subject of multi-million lawsuits in Britain and the US.

The warning was issued by the Medical Devices Agency, which tests medical equipment. In advice to the Health Department it said investigation of women affected by rupture of the implants had found that the chemical breakdown of the oil leaking into the breast was "significantly different" from that predicted during pre-clinical testing. "This breakdown results in some biologically active substances, the toxicology of which has not been adequately evaluated."

The swelling associated with rupture of the implants could be due to local inflammatory response. "The local swelling is believed to resolve once the ruptured implant has been removed."

Vicki Allanach, adviser on women's health to the Royal College of Nursing, said: "It is an anxious time for women but this is a very small number of implants. We should not get it out of proportion."

The implants are manufactured by the Swiss company Lipomatrix. Before its purchase by Sierra Medical Technologies in November it was a subsidiary of Collagen Aesthetics International, the UK suppliers. Lipomatrix and Collagen Aesthetics issued a joint statement saying that Trilucent implants had "a very good safety profile".

David Cooper, managing director of Transform, the country's market leader in cosmetic surgery, said women who had received soya-oil implants should not panic. "Like everyone else, we are awaiting to



Elaine Coomber wonders whether to leave in her soya oil implants or have them removed. Peter Macdiarmid

BREAST SURGERY BY TRANSFORM

Transform are the UK's market leader providing more specialist cosmetic surgery than any other group.

For 08-20 20 0000, 0500 59 59 59

TRANSFORM

100% AND 100% SILENT
• No pain - no need to be in hospital
• No scars - no need to be in hospital
• No risk - no need to be in hospital

My implants are filled with only safer and safe water and so safe you could

BEFORE **AFTER**

An advert for Transform's breast implant surgery

'I was ill and in pain... I wanted them removed'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

ELAINE COOMBER accepted the advice of her cosmetic surgeon four years ago to replace the silicone implants she had had for 20 years with the Trilucent soya bean oil devices.

Now the fears about silicone she thought she had put behind her have returned to haunt her after yesterday's government health warning about the new implants.

"I was told they were a safer alternative. I can't believe I had it done. But at the time I felt confident in the surgeon."

Miss Coomber, 53, of Hextable, Kent, said she was shocked by the news that the implants had been banned. "But I am not surprised because of the stories I have heard of other women having problems. My advice to women is, if you don't have symptoms, don't panic, if you do, go to a doctor."

In 1995, Miss Coomber set up a self-help group, Survivors of Silicone, after experiencing persistent problems with her original implants, which ruptured and adhered to her breast tissue. "I had had children and I decided I wanted an uplift. I was lucky the implant was small. If it had been larger I don't know what might have happened."

"I had been having problems with leakage of the silicone and then I heard stories about other problems. I was ill and had pain in the breast area. I decided I wanted them removed because I was worried."

Her new implants brought little improvement, however, and she now faces the decision of whether to leave them in place or have them removed. "They have been painful ever since. The question I would like to ask the Health Department is why they didn't do proper testing before they let them on the market."

David Sharpe, professor of plastic surgery at Bradford Royal Infirmary and an expert on breast implants, said the concerns about silicone were unfounded and that new implants using other materials had been marketed to frightened women in an aggressive manner.

"It is very alarming for women. Many will want to be replaced. I don't use them [soya bean implants] because I strongly believe in silicone. If a patient doesn't trust me enough to use silicone I would rather send them elsewhere."

Silicone gel breast implants were banned in the US in 1991 after a series of court cases claiming they caused connective tissue damage and a range of other conditions. However, subsequent investigations have failed to demonstrate a link between the implants and disease and they have never been banned in Britain.

THE WORLD EUROPE NEWS



FROM SILICONE TO SOYA: TYPES OF IMPLANTS



Silicone gel: the commonest implant, in use since 1962 but banned from cosmetic surgery after a health scare. Reprised after an independent review.

Cohesive silicone gel: more jelly-like and slightly firmer. Saline: filled with salt water, commonly used in the US. The shape and feel are less realistic than silicone gel and the outer case can crease or wrinkle. Deflation after a rupture - said to occur in one in 10 cases - is usually instant.

Hydrogel: sugar, starch and water in a jelly-like state, a synthetic version is available. Offers a more natural effect, but there could be 'rippling'. Cancer screening can be complicated.

Soya Bean Oil: a natural product in use since 1993 thought (until now) to be safe. The filling is a natural fat, which is excreted naturally if there is a rupture. Less realistic than silicone, it is "radiolucent", breast tissue is not hidden during screening.

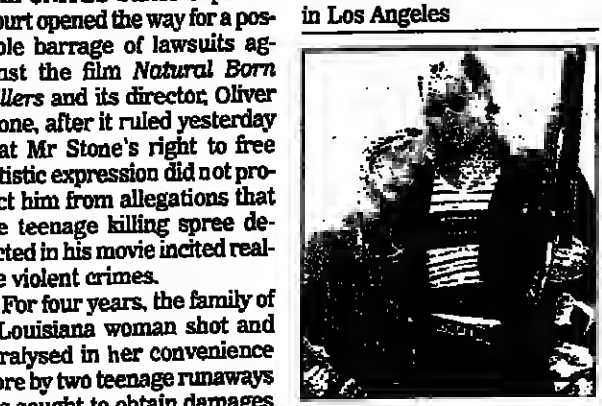


Pamela Anderson: New breasts and collagen lips

Jane Fonda: Facelift and breast implants

Stone faces flood of lawsuits

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles



THE UNITED States Supreme Court opened the way for a possible barrage of lawsuits against the film *Natural Born Killers* and its director, Oliver Stone, after it ruled yesterday that Mr Stone's right to free artistic expression did not protect him from allegations that the teenage killing spree depicted in his movie incited real-life violent crimes.

For four years, the family of a Louisiana woman shot and paralysed in her convenience store by two teenage runaways has sought to obtain damages from the makers of the film but has been challenged at every turn by the defendants who claim that depictions of violence on film are protected by the First Amendment of the US Constitution. The Supreme

have incited "imminent lawless activity".

In the Louisiana case, the store-owner, Patsy Ann Evers, was attacked by the teenage daughter of an Oklahoma judge and her boyfriend who, according to the plaintiffs, staged an armed robbery on the store shortly after seeing *Natural Born Killers* on video.

The ruling could have broad repercussions for filmmakers in general, who have weathered severe criticism from politicians and the families of crime victims but have never yet had to answer in court for their depictions of violence on screen.

Natural Born Killers has been dogged by controversy since its release in 1994. Starring Juliette Lewis and Woody

Harrelson as a pair of deranged teenagers sinking deeper and deeper into graphic violence, it has been accused of spawning copy-cat crimes in the US, France and Britain. In the wake of the Dunblane massacre in 1996, Warner Bros decided to suspend its UK video release indefinitely.

Mr Stone has always defended the film, saying it examines the very problem that it is said to personify - the relationship between suggestive, violent images on screen, and actual flesh-and-blood violence. The film uses several techniques, notably fast cutting and video footage, to underline this theme, and shows the couple becoming grimly fascinated with their own portrayal on the television news.

A couple (male and female) both non-smokers, aged 25, applying for a PEP mortgage of £50,000 secured over 25 years on a property with a purchase price of £57,000. Assuming a discounted mortgage completed on 15th May 1999 with conveyancer's charges: £112.50, valuation fee £100, mortgage discharge fee £25, death-in-debt fee £25, total interest £25.32 and also that the mortgage is repaid at end of mortgage term and interest rate of 3.04% APR applies throughout the mortgage term. (In practice, the discount of 3.35% ends on 30th April 2001 and we charge our full variable base rate from then on, that is currently 5.55%). Monthly mortgage payment £271.00 after tax relief, 300 monthly payments. Monthly PEP premium £32.76. Total amount payable £14,472. Calls may be monitored and recorded. You must be aged 18 or over and give us a mortgage over your property. We may need additional mortgage security. We will take into account your personal and financial circumstances and the value or price of your property. These and the product you choose will affect how much we lend you, how much contribution towards valuation fees you may get and what, if any, additional mortgage security fee, arrangement fee and repayment fee you have to pay. This product or offer is only available to customers remortgaging and all loans are subject to credit checks. We can withdraw them without notice. For more details and written quotations, ask at your local office. With discounted rates, the special interest rate will only apply during the special rate period. The special rate period will end on 30th April 2001. If you repay a special rate loan before the end of the repayment term period, we will charge you a repayment fee. The repayment fee period will end on 30th April 2001. The repayment fee will be a percentage of the special rate loan amount. We have worked out the APRs assuming that the rate applies throughout the mortgage term. In practice, we charge a variable base interest rate at the end of any special rate period. This service is not available for mortgages on property on the Isle of Man. Our final decision to lend depends on the value or price of your property.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Halifax plc represents only the Halifax Financial Services Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance, pensions and unit trusts.

15 MINUTE MORTGAGE PROMISE

Get up.
Get a mortgage.
Get dressed.

In a quarter of an hour you can get the promise of a mortgage - and a very enviable one as our rates are extremely attractive - you'll know how much you can borrow and how much you can spend. You'll know if you can put in an offer on a house immediately and none of this will cost you a penny.

£171 PER MONTH 3.7% APR
*BASED ON £60,000 LOAN. NO ARRANGEMENT FEE.

CALL 0800 20 30 49
Lines open 8am-8pm 7 days a week or drop into your local branch.

HAUF
Get a little extra help.

Children give up on the classics

CHILDREN are reading more than they were a generation ago but have abandoned 19th-century classics in favour of Roald Dahl and Sue Townsend.

In the Seventies, the favourite book for 10 to 14-year-olds was *Little Women* by Louisa M. Alcott. In the Nineties, it is Dahl's *The BFG*. The only author to maintain a commanding position in both decades was Enid Blyton.

The findings, from a survey of nearly 8,000 children by researchers at Nottingham University, will be published on Thursday in a new book, *Children's Reading Choices*. Dr Christine Hall and Dr Martin Coles replicated a study done at Sheffield University in 1971.

On average, children of all ages surveyed in 1994-95 had read 2.52 books each in the month before the survey, compared with 2.39 in 1971. Only among 14-year-old boys has the amount of reading declined.

Dr Coles said yesterday: "There has been a big expansion in writing and marketing of books for children. They are getting more choice and they are choosing contemporary books. Children are buying books in supermarkets and at newsagents, and the cover of a Point Horror book looks more appealing than a Dickens."

"But a lot of classics are still being read: one in six among our top 200 is what most adults would consider a classic, often connected with a TV series."

"Children's taste in books is amazingly eclectic. One girl had read an Enid Blyton, *Cinderella*, a book on *Having a Baby* and a *Beginners' Guide to Feminism* in the previous month."

CS Lewis appears in the top 20 favourite authors for all ages in both surveys. Charles Dickens and Agatha Christie have slipped back in the Nineties but are still among the 30 most popular authors.


BY JUDITH JUND
Education Editor

sion in writing and marketing of books for children. They are getting more choice and they are choosing contemporary books. Children are buying books in supermarkets and at newsagents, and the cover of a Point Horror book looks more appealing than a Dickens.

"But a lot of classics are still being read: one in six among our top 200 is what most adults would consider a classic, often connected with a TV series.

"Children's taste in books is amazingly eclectic. One girl had read an Enid Blyton, Cinderella, a book on *Having a Baby* and a *Beginners' Guide to Feminism* in the previous month."

CS Lewis appears in the top 200 favourite authors for all ages in both surveys. Charles Dickens and Agatha Christie have slipped back in the Nineties but are still among the 30 most popular authors.




Top ten books for 12-year-olds in the Seventies

<i>Little Women</i>	Lucy Maud Montgomery
<i>Black Beauty</i>	R. D. Black
<i>Treasure Island</i>	R. D. Black
<i>Ann the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>	Charles Lewis
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Brontë
<i>Heidi</i>	Ch. F. Joh. Meier
<i>Oliver Twist</i>	Charles Dickens
<i>The Secret Seven</i>	Enid Blyton
<i>The Silver Sword</i>	Janina Palas
<i>Tom Sawyer</i>	Mark Twain

Bestsellers such as *Harry Potter* did not come out in time to be included. The authors argue: "A strong case can be made for the importance of ensuring that children are introduced to classic texts in schools since they do not fea-

ture prominent contemporary reading." Among older comics of the Seventies, given way to modern newspapers. Most (18 per cent) read *The Beano* (12 per



brings you the magic of spring

Top ten books for

in the N

ulsa M. Alcott
Anna Sewall
L. Stevenson
C. S. Lewis
Charlotte Bronte
Hannah Sperry
Charles Dickens
Enid Blyton
Jan Serrallier
Mark Twain

Point Horror series
Sweet Valley series
Babysitters Club
Matilda
The Witches
The BFG
The Twits
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Adrian Mole
What Katy Did series

ly in their voi-
choices."
or pupils, the
seventies have
magazines and
ed 12-year-olds
d *The Sun*. By the
ent century. But

age of 10, 12 per cent of children
are reading *The Sun*.

Just 17 is the most popular
magazine for teenage girls. In
the Seventies, it was *Jackie*.
'Teenage girls' magazines today
assume a "sexual know-
ingness" that adults may find un-

The BFG

Illustrated by
QUENTIN BLAKE 

12-year-olds girls **Top ten b**

lineties

Various	<i>The BFG</i>
Francine Pascal	<i>The Witches</i>
Ann M. Martin	<i>Charlie and the</i>
Ronald Dahl	<i>Point Horror se</i>
Ronald Dahl	<i>Adrian Mole se</i>
Ronald Dahl	<i>Asterix series</i>
Ronald Dahl	<i>Jurassic Park</i>
Factory	<i>The Twits</i>
Sue Townsend	<i>Mallika</i>
Susan Coolidge	<i>The Hobbit</i>

comfortable but not more so than an evening's television viewing, says the book.

They are also "textually quite rich" and "potentially educative".

Boys are reading more magazines than they did 25 years

ago: their favourite ball and computer.

Dr Coles said to recognise what's out of school. Books can't read are icals sending information a

CRUEL

and
are back, back, back!
Their first UK interview and behind-the-scenes gossip

LEE FROM 5.11
RACED & A LOT MORE GORE

NAYA
FROM 5.11
FROM 5.11

FROM 5.11
FROM 5.11

FROM 5.11
FROM 5.11

**books for 12-year-old boys
in the Nineties**

Chocolate Factory
ries
ries

Ronald Dahl
Ronald Dahl
Ronald Dahl
Various
Sue Townsend
Rene Goscinny
Michael Crichton
Ronald Dahl
Ronald Dahl
J. R. R. Tolkien

writes cover foot-
riters.
d: "Schools need
at children read
s who say they
reading period-
oached with in-
and statistics.

Schools put too much empha-
s on narrative." He emphasized
that a diet of narrative girls
thrived on at school might not
equip them for work.
*Children's Reading Choice by
Christine Hall and Martin
Coles. Routledge. £12.99.*

Ingham bound over to keep the peace

was listed simply as Mr Bernard Ingham, stripped of his knightship with one stroke of a clerk's pen. And when he sat down, only his bushy grey eyebrows were visible over the edge of the dock.

All in all, yesterday's appearance before Croydon magistrates should have been a humbling experience for Lady Thatcher's former press secretary. But Sir Bernard - as he should properly be described -

emerged from it completely unshaken.

Charged with criminal damage to a neighbour's Mercedes, he agreed to be bound over to keep the peace for 12 months. But he still proclaimed his innocence, said he regretted nothing and portrayed himself as the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

It was a quintessential English neighbours' dispute that

caused Sir Bernard's "unfortunate descent into disgraceful conduct", as Julius Capon, the prosecuting solicitor, put it yesterday.

For 11 years he had been engaged in a bitter feud with Barry Cripps, a builder, and his wife, Linda, who live next door to him in Monahan Avenue, a tree-lined suburban street in Purley, Surrey.

Sir Bernard, 66, has objected to a series of home improvements, including the

blow his top in December, the court heard yesterday.

Espying Mr Crripps stray off to his land while reversing a silver Mercedes SLK into a garage, Sir Bernard "started to shout and gesticulate".

He then allegedly kicked the car and, when Mrs Crripps drew his attention to this, replied


Good, I'm glad," Croymon Court-stadular, summoned to the scene, were left in no doubt as to the stature of the man with whom they were dealing. When charged, the defendant required of them, haughtily: "Are you sure you want to do this?"

Sir Bernard, a broadcaster and columnist described his solicitor, Graham Pithouse, as "a person perhaps of some substance", as he glowered at the courtroom while his allegations were recounted.

But as someone not unusual
shy of voicing an opinion, he
was strangely taciturn. To
by Ray Dann, chairman of the
magistrates, that he was to be
bound over to the sum
£1,000, he nodded curtly. "Is that
a 'yes'?" asked Mr Dann
sharply. "Yes, it is," replied St
Bernard.

Afterwards, on the steps
the court building, he exuded
defiance. "It is ironic that I am
here, because I have sought
over 11 years of problems to u

Mr Cripps said: "We are weary of the constant bombardment that we have suffered. We are no match for Bernard Ingham. Let's hope that he will now allow us to



Ingham: Unchastened

on with our lives peacefully." Given their opponent's track record, that seems highly unlikely.

And finally, a safe, dull start despite the graphics


FIRST NIGHT

ITV EVENING NEWS

EVER SINCE Kirsty Young came out from behind her desk on Channel 5 news, other television news operations have been worrying that they look too stuffy and formal – hence the uncomfortable sight of Jon Snow and Kirsty Lang on Channel 4 news looking awkwardly in armchairs and wondering what to do with their hands.

With the revamping of ITV's news operation – “A new era for ITV”, as the continuity announcer modestly put it – it was a fair bet that we would be getting something a little more relaxed, a little less starched: Trevor McDonald perched on a barstool, sipping a Scotch and drawing on a tash, or with Val Doonican-style rocking-chair and jumper.

In fact, Trevor did come out from behind the desk, but only for a few seconds after the commercial break, to introduce a story about teenage girls smoking: a tantalising flash of trouser rather than the



Trevor McDonald's broad-

Full Monty. It was left to the ITN economics correspondent to step out and perform a dainty *pas de deux* with a computerised image of the Chancellor's red box as it scooted around the screen—this was apparently intended as a way of taking the viewer's mind off what she had to say about today's Budget.

Otherwise, the innovations consisted of a new, more spa-



cast of the new ITV news

scious look to the studio, and rotating computer graphics, with the kind of rotating globe that the satirical TV programme *The Day Today* poked fun at. Mostly, though, it was business as usual, still starting with the bongos, though not as many of them, obviously, and still ending with "And Finally". In between, there was a half-hearted attempt to create a sense of occasion, with an ex-

clusive interview with Gordon Brown: the Chancellor expanded on Sunday's remarks about a Budget for the family, adding that it would also help jobs and enterprise.

And, scoop, the first pictures of the failed British round-the-world balloon attempt crashing into the Pacific - this sounded a more spectacular than it looked. The adventuring theme continued with the "And Finally," which had David Hempleman-Adams preparing to walk, unaided, to the magnetic North Pole.

The spirit of adventure did not communicate itself to the ITN news team. Reporting from Argentina on the Prince of Wales' impending visit, Nicholas Owen concluded that it might indeed be "sensitive in parts"; while Katie Derham, discussing Monica Lewinsky's tour of the British bush, opined, predicted that: "This American woman faces enormous interest from the British public."

All in all, as new eras in broadcasting go, this one looked very safe and very dull.

ROBERT HANKS

Martians found in meteorite

CIENTISTS HAVE discovered that Martians do exist. A life form has been uncovered in Antarctica that has been feeding on "Martian food" for many thousands of years.

The organism is a common terrestrial microbe that has lived deep inside the cracks of Martian meteorite, which fell on earth 13,000 years ago, landing on an ice-sheet at the South pole. Scientists believe the microbe has lived off the meteorite's organic carbon molecules, which originated when Mars had liquid water, and possibly life, of its own.

"Under the principle 'you've got what you eat,' it could be described as a Martian," said Dr

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

Andrew Steele, a British scientist who made the find while working at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Dr Steele left Britain two years ago to work with the scientists at the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) who announced in 1996 that they had found signs of life on the Martian meteorite known as ALH84001.

But instead of finding a Martian microbe, Dr Steele came across a type of terrestrial bacteria belonging to a group called the Actinomyces, a common microbe found almost

everywhere on the planet. "It must have lived deep inside the rock and could only have got its food source of carbon from the meteorite itself. It is the only known organism on earth which has been eating Martian food," Dr Steele said.

The results of the two-year investigation into the ALH84001 meteorite will be released next week at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in Houston, where NASA scientists will continue to argue that the meteorite shows genuine signs of extra-terrestrial life.

Dr Steele, who analysed the meteorite using sophisticated microscopy techniques, said the microbe was overlooked in

the past because scientists had been using inappropriate detection methods.

"In the particular case of ALH84001, a terrestrial organism went undetected by all the techniques that claim to be able to detect life," he said.

Meteorites from Antarctica were once thought to be free from earthly contamination because of the pristine state of the frozen continent, but this is no longer the case. The discovery of the microbe could be bad news for Nasa scientists in search of genuine Martians. It will make it more difficult to convince a sceptical world that their meteorite evidence of life is truly out of this world.



Mortgages

Best

We've won the 'Best Bank' and 'Best Direct Lender' awards from 'Your Mortgage' magazine



When it comes to providing mortgages, NatWest is a clear winner. Straight over the phone, we can give you a quote within five minutes and a provisional decision just ten minutes later. So why not give us a call and judge our service for yourself?





Call 0800 400 999

Monday-Friday 8am to 8pm, Weekends 10am to 4pm,
and our reference BEST 26, or pop into your nearest NatWest branch.

You'll find us on the Internet on: www.natwest.co.uk



NatWest

More than just a bank

***YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT**

Telephone lines are operated by National Westminster Home Loans Limited. We may monitor and record your phone calls with us to maintain and improve our service. Credit is available to persons aged 18 or over and is subject to status and conditions. Mortgage loans are available from National Westminster Home Loans Limited, 41 Leathers, London EC2P 2BP. Security and insurance are required. Written quotations are available from National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Leathers, London EC2P 2BP. National Westminster Bank Plc represents only the NatWest and Garmouth Marketing Group for life insurance, pensions, unit trusts, other regulated collective investments and investment services. All members of the Marketing Group are regulated by both the Personal Investment Authority and FIBIS (except for National Westminster Life Assurance Limited which is only regulated by the Personal Investment Authority) for investment business, and NatWest Securities Limited, which is a member of the London Stock Exchange and is regulated by the Securities and Futures Authority. The 'Best Bank' Award was issued by 'Your Mortgage' magazine and was judged by an independent panel of 100 mortgage brokers. The 'Best Direct Lender' Award was issued by 'Your Mortgage' magazine. Mortgages available in England, Scotland and Wales only.

Baby killed by 'tired' doctor's error

A NEWBORN baby died because a tired doctor missed out a decimal point when prescribing a heart-slowing drug, an inquest was told yesterday.

Dr Christian Slabbert told police his failure to "retain the decimal point" more than 14 hours into a 24-hour shift led to Benjamin Adams receiving a massive overdose of the cardiac drug Digoxin.

BY RACHEL CROFTS

The South African doctor told the baby's parents, Carl and Tina Adams, he was "sorry" when he appeared at the inquest in Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

Dr Slabbert, who now works in Arkansas, in the United States, refused to answer questions on the advice of his barrister, but when asked by the Adams' family solicitor, Paul

Belen, if he wished to say anything to the parents, he replied simply: "I'm sorry".

Tina Adams, 26, who now has a nine-month-old son, broke down as the doctor left the witness box.

Benjamin was just a few hours old when he was given 10 times the recommended dose of Digoxin at Alexandra hospital, Redditch, in April 1997. The blunder happened after the

baby developed respiratory problems and a fast heart beat shortly. He had been born by Caesarean section on 25 April.

Doctors at the hospital's paediatric department sought advice from cardiologists at Birmingham Children's Hospital, who recommended the drugs adenosine and Digoxin.

Adenosine was to be prescribed at a rate of 100 mcg per kilogram of the baby's weight

and Digoxin at 10 mcg per kilogram, the inquest heard.

The dosage was written on the patient notes by the senior physician, Dr Neel Kamal. Dr Bridget Wilson and Dr Slabbert were left to write up the prescription, the hearing was told.

The adenosine was administered by Dr Wilson and began to improve the baby's condition.

The Digoxin was then administered by nursing staff

working from the prescription written by Dr Slabbert. In a statement to police at the time of the incident, Dr Slabbert, 38, said he had been tired when he made the mistake, and was on his second 24-hour shift during the week of the death.

The statement read: "I had had a demanding day. I was on duty for a 24-hour period. There was a degree of tension due to the bed and staff shortage."

The doctor, who told police he had "no real experience" of prescribing intravenous cardiac drugs, was called to several births, received referrals from GPs and attended to patients in casualty during his shift, before being required to write the prescription.

He told police: "I then made the calculation but inadvertently failed to retain the decimal point."

"I was quite tired, having been on duty since 9am the previous morning and working continually without much of a break. I had not even been able to have an evening meal."

The Alexandra Healthcare Trust has admitted liability to the family of Fir Trees Close, Batchley, Redditch, have received £7,500 compensation, the maximum payout for the death of a child.

Cabbies in revolt over imposition of 48-hour week

BY DARIUS SANAI

BY THE Great Plague burial pit next to Smithfield Market in London, William Hayter was outlining a prophecy of doom: a capital city where taxis are near-impossible to find and prohibitively expensive.

Mr Hayter, talking between sips of tea, was imagining what might happen if the European Commission goes ahead with plans to regulate taxi-drivers to a 48-hour week. "I'm sure a lot of the drivers would have to leave the business and the costs would inevitably be passed on to the customers," Mr Hayter said from the driver's seat of his taxi.

A typical four-mile journey now costs £10 on a weekday. Fares could rise sharply under the proposed regulations.

Once, if a passenger desired an animated soliloquy from the driver, he would have to bring up the subject of immigrants, or cyclists. The latest pet hate, though, is the European Commission, which wants to bring taxi-drivers in line with other workers subject to an average maximum 48-hour week, and restrict the hours they can work at the most lucrative times of all, the evening shifts.

News of the plans is just reaching London's 17,000 licensed black-cab drivers and, according to those outside



David Lane: Golden days of cabbies are receding

Beppe's Cafe by Smithfield Market, the result could be rather more tangible than a general upturn in front-seat xenophobia.

Under this nightmarish scenario, black-cab drivers would be more reluctant than ever to take passengers south of the river, thousands of cabbies would go out of business and, as fathers discourage sons from following in their tyre tracks, the basis of one of London's most enduring traditions would be jeopardised.

"You just wouldn't be able to afford to buy a new cab," said Aubrey Saffier, who has been driving taxis for 30 years. "Young

people who don't own their own cabs and have mortgages to pay off would suffer the most; it just wouldn't be profitable." The cost of self-regulation, by attaching tachographs to meters, and the attendant bureaucracy, would also be passed on to the passengers.

Black-taxi drivers are all self-employed, either owning or hiring their cabs and choosing their working hours to suit themselves.

Many, particularly younger drivers determined to make quick money, work more than 60 hours a week, much of it at the peak times of Friday and Saturday nights.

The average earnings for a London cabbie are £12 to £16 an hour. It is higher on lucrative journeys but is balanced out by time spent waiting at airports and stations or cruising at quiet periods.

With a new taxi costing £28,000, and a five-year-old one costing £190 a week to hire, with added maintenance costs, cabbieing is not the lucrative trade it once was.

As Mr Saffier said: "It used to be a great trade but there are so many other ways celebrities and interesting people get around now. It's not what it was and I wouldn't advise my sons to do it. The regulations would make it even more difficult."



William Hayter, a London cabbie, believes the working hours regulations would make taxis scarce and prohibitively expensive. John Voos

Star Performer. Don't miss the Grand Finale.

17.2%
average returns since launch

For PEPs, the curtain comes down in April 1999. So if you want to take advantage of one of the best performers available, time's running out.

Our European PEP has outperformed 97% of the competition over the last

5 years. It invests in a trust that has been 'AAA' rated in 6 out of the 7 years*, and had it been available as a PEP when launched, would have produced returns of 17.2% - free from UK Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax.

Whether you want to make a new investment, or transfer an existing PEP, make sure you don't miss the chance to enjoy our European PEP performance - while you still can.

For further details, return the coupon or call

0345 6789 10

Quote reference no. 448DB7

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

www.scottishwidows.co.uk

2% discount on new lump sums and transfers before 5 April 1999.



Please return to: Scottish Widows, Direct Sales, PO Box 17036, FREEPOST SC05744, Edinburgh EH3 0BL.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms) _____ First Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone No. Work _____ Home _____ Date of Birth _____

We will never make your name and address available to other organisations. However, we will occasionally tell you more about our products and services which we believe will be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please tick this box. ☐ Reference No. 448DB7

*Source: Standard and Poor's Global 1000-10000, lump sum savings offer to bid prices, gross income re-invested, 515 funds to survey. *Source: Standard & Poor's Fund Research 1993-1998. *Based on £4,000 lump sum, 14.3% to 14.5% offer to bid prices, gross income re-invested, assuming our European Trust had been available as a PEP over the five years to 1 October 1998. The same investment would have produced an average annual growth rate of 17.2%. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. The value of the tax advantages of a PEP depends on personal circumstances. Where applicable we will recover any overseas tax wherever it is possible and practical to do so. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of any overseas investments to go down as well as up. The tax position of PEPs will change in April 1999. For your protection calls may be recorded or monitored. Issued by Scottish Widows Investments Management Limited. Regulated by the Financial Services Authority and BIC.

Beware the brochure-speak for a true guide to holidays

WHEN IT comes to picking a holiday, it is not what the brochure says, but what it does not, that can trip up the unwary, according to a new report.

True, your room may well have "stunning views", but they may be of a wasteland or concrete and scaffolding. "Ideally situated" may mean there is indeed a beach on one side - but there is also a council tip on the other. And for "lively", read "a distinct possibility of lager-swilling teenagers throwing up with disco music blaring all night in the background".

In fact, holidaymakers are being subjected to "wildly misleading" descriptions of the kind of resorts and hotels they can expect from travel companies, according to the Consumers' Association magazine, *Holiday Which?* It said: "We found the biggest problems are not the euphemisms and the

BY KIM SENGUPTA

purple prose, but the omissions and economies with the truth."

One who would agree is Peter Kilfoyle, the minister for public services. He is taking Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, to court to claim compensation for a family holiday allegedly ruined by a number of features not in the brochure. These included a flight being delayed and re-routed, and a half-finished hotel.

Mr Kilfoyle, whose ministerial post makes him responsible for the government charter-mark project, which sets standards for organisations, also claimed that a letter of complaint went unanswered, telephone calls were put through to disconnected lines and correspondence was lost. *Holiday Which?* has published

a crash course in "brochure speak" to aid the unwary. This includes: "developing or fast-expanding" - noisy and dusty, with building works everywhere; "ever more popular" - even noisier and more crowded than last year; "due for completion" - still being built; "just off the main road" - traffic within a few feet.

Patricia Yates, editor of the magazine, said: "You should be able to rely on brochure descriptions, but our research has shown that frequently the brochures are keeping people in the dark." The Consumers' Association advises holidaymakers to consider making claims if their experience does not match the brochure description and to be persistent with their complaints.

Trawling through hotels and resorts, the report said: "Every now and then we come across

a hotel that's beyond belief. The Horizontes Copey Resort in Varadero, Cuba, is one such place. The complaints of the guests beside the pool ranged from 'It's like a council block beside the M25' to 'Our holiday turned into the the biggest and most expensive disappointment we have ever had'."

In Crete, it is true that the Irene Apartments in Stalis is "just off the main road", as Sun set Holidays say. But *Holiday Which?* says that it is only "too true" - because, in fact, sitting by the pool, you are a mere 35 feet from endless streams of traffic.

The King Minos Palace hotel in Heraklion is, according to First Choice, "just 200 metres away" from the beach and, for Sunworld, "just a 10-minute walk". In reality it is a 300-yard slog from the beach back to the hotel up a steep hill.

IN BRIEF

Kubrick died of natural causes

STANLEY KUBRICK, 70, died of natural causes at his home in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, a post-mortem examination found yesterday. The film director, whose credits include *A Clockwork Orange* and *2001*, had just completed his latest project, *Eyes Wide Shut*.

Courts 'powerless' in Fayed case

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL told three appeal judges yesterday that the courts have no power to try the Harrods owner, Mohamed al-Fayed, for libel in an action brought by the former Conservative MP Neil Hamilton, because a finding by Parliament could not be questioned.

Jolly conductor on the right track

A CHIRPY train conductor has been told he can carry on brightening up passengers' journeys despite a manager complaining that he was not sticking to announcement guidelines. Bob Anderson, 35, from Newcastle, greets people on Northern Spirit trains in six languages.

The flavour of Britain

ORDNANCE SURVEY this week launches its *Gazetteer of Great Britain*, the most comprehensive yet with 258,000 place names - dozens with a culinary flavour such as Pudding Pie Nook in Lancashire, Mushroom Green in the West Midlands and Hungry Hill in South Ayrshire.

\$1.2bn fraudster begins appeal

THE MAN jailed for 14 years for breaking the Bank of Credit and Commerce International took his case to the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Abbas Gokal, a Pakistani shipping tycoon, had siphoned off \$1.2bn in the \$20bn collapse.

He was found guilty of fraud and false accounting at the Old Bailey in 1997 after a 122-day trial that cost £4.5m. Gokal, 62, was also ordered to pay £2.9m within two years, or face three more years in prison.

One of the main grounds for the appeal are the circumstances under which Gokal ended up in court. He was arrested in July 1994 in Frankfurt, Germany, when his flight from Karachi to the US stopped for refuelling.

Sources stated at the time that the district attorney's of

BY KIM SENGUPTA

fice in New York had offered him a plea bargaining deal and were said to be furious at the Serious Fraud Office. John Moscow, New York assistant district attorney, had written to Gokal's lawyers: "I have spoken to the prosecuting authorities in the United Kingdom. They tell me that they have no current plans to arrest Mr Gokal when he meets with us."

Gokal's Gulf Group, a Middle East-based shipping company, was the biggest borrower from BCCI. He and his two brothers, Mustafa and Muraza, who are living in Pakistan, once controlled more than 100 vessels.

Gokal's appeal is led by Alan Jones QC, who acts for the government of Spain and is one of Britain's foremost authorities on extradition.

Some privileges vary between airlines. Each **oneworld™** alliance airline reserves the right to change its frequent flyer programme rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers and to end their frequent flyer programme in accordance with its relevant frequent flyer programme rules. All **oneworld** benefits are only available to passengers on scheduled flights that are both operated and marketed by a **oneworld** member airline. (Marketed means there must be a **oneworld** member airline flight number on your ticket.) American Airlines, British Airways, Canadian Airlines, Cathay Pacific Airways and Qantas are all trademarks of their respective companies.

Deep breaths of socialism put a spring in Labour's step

SOMETIMES YOU can see a back bench deflate in front of your eyes. It happened to the Tories yesterday when MPs gathered to hear Michael Meacher read a statement about the Government's plans to give people greater access to the countryside. The advance word had been that New Labour was retreating from the idea of compulsion, but it soon turned out that this had been canny backspin. Squaring up to excoriate the Government for not keeping a manifesto promise, the Tories discovered, to their obvious dismay, that they were going to have to exonerate them for keeping it. As Mr Meacher said the magic words

"bring forward legislation", Labour members huzzahed and chortled at the glum faces of their opponents, loudly enough, indeed, to mask the crucial words "as soon as parliamentary time allows" - a phrase that could mean anything from next month to sometime in 2015.

But Labour backbenchers were too exhilarated to notice, taking in deep lungfuls of the bracing socialist air that blew around Mr Meacher's remarks. When a Labour minister talks about ensuring that "the people will be free in perpetuity" and alludes to landmark legislation from the Attlee government, you can tell that he is half thinking about

what he will look like embroidered on to a trade union banner, leading a march of cagouled rambblers into a glorious sunset. And even the most suspicious backbenchers were in a mood of giggly jubilation. "I feel kind of warm towards New Labour at the moment," said Gordon Prentice, before offering his private member's Bill to the minister as an early opportunity to press the legislation through. Barry Jones, carried away by the revivalist spirit of the occasion, asked the minister to assure him that legislation would also apply to Wales so that it would clear away "any remnants of 18th-century oligarchy". It wasn't

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

clear why it should be the 18th century, except that it sounded so impeccably wicked - a time when shotguns and gintraps would soon

put paid to unwanted intruders. Labour members saw a vision of starchy rambblers, eyes bright with the beauty of nature as they planted a boot into the face of privilege. Their opponents saw an advancing army of oiks in shellsuits, annoying sheep and distressing innocent ground-nesting birds which would, if nature was allowed to take its course, be blasted from the sky six months later, as God had always intended. Where Labour talked of "rambling" and "roaming", placid and contemplative activities, the Plaid Cymru MP Eifyn Iwan referred contemptuously to people "traipsing" around the countryside,

a verb that conjured a picture of a surly, foot-dragging excursion - pathway erosion personified. Conservative members would probably have gone even further, had they not been nervous about their appearance. To listen to them talk, Mr Meacher had just announced his intention to pass a Right to Loller With Intent Act.

Conservative members asked two pertinent questions: Edward Garnier pointed out that both the European Convention and Labour's Human Rights Bill required compensation for any dilution of rights of property, and Peter Atkinson asking how the public would be in-

formed of the temporary closures that landowners would be allowed under the legislation - would the newly accessible countryside be invisible behind a rash of signs? Others may occur later. If, as Mr Meacher said, gardens were to be exempt from the regulations, you can imagine there might be a bit of a rush on down at the local garden centre - "I'd like to order 83 miles of herbaceous border, please, and four gross of assorted garden gnomes". But for the majority of MPs this wasn't a day to cavil at details. It was one to admire the splendid view - including that sparkling stretch of clear blue water.

Ramblers to get access 'in perpetuity'

A STATUTORY right to roam is the only way to ensure that four million acres of countryside are opened up to the public "in perpetuity", Michael Meacher, the Environment minister, declared yesterday.

In a Commons statement, Mr Meacher said the Government would bring forward legislation on the issue as soon as Parliamentary time allowed, and he expected that before the next general election.

To the cheers of Labour MPs, he said he was committed to meeting his party's manifesto pledge on a freedom to roam for walkers and rambblers across mountain, moor and heathland in England and Wales.

But the opposition accused the Government of "class warfare" and warned that the measures would be overly bureaucratic and could ruin the environment.

Mr Meacher said the statutory right would be balanced by "proper and reasonable limitations" and would not apply to developed or agricultural land.

A law was needed because

THE RIGHT TO ROAM BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

the voluntary approach to opening up the countryside had delivered "relatively little" over the last 50 years.

"Glorious parts of our heritage are still the preserve of the few, not the delight of the many," he told MPs.

"Only a new statutory right will deliver cost-effectively the extent and permanence of access we are seeking."

"We are now convinced that legislation is the only way to make sure people will be free in perpetuity to explore open countryside."

Mr Meacher said there was no question of giving people a "right to trample over crops or through other people's gardens", and Local Area Forums would address concerns and issues over "fragile" countryside areas.

Gillian Shephard, the shadow environment secretary, said voluntary agreements between landowners and rambblers were

a much better way of gaining increased access. Mrs Shephard, amid harracking by Labour MPs, said: "We deplore that you have sought to alienate the very people who have done so much to promote access in all parts of the country."

"It is regrettable, although perhaps only to be expected from someone who has talked about land-owning as 'exclusivity' and 'inherited privilege', that you should squander the goodwill which those in the countryside have sought to bring to this issue."

Mrs Shephard demanded compensation for landowners and farmers for costs of access and loss of land value.

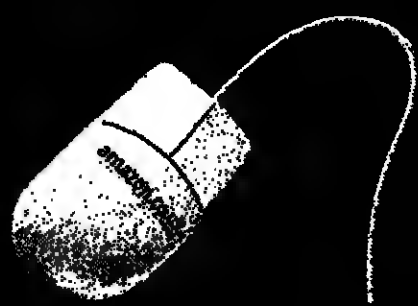
She added: "You have produced a solution which has the potential of satisfying no one. It will be cumbersome, it will be bureaucratic and it will further divide town and country. It is a squandered opportunity."

Matthew Taylor, for the Liberal Democrats, said the minister's statement was "a big step from national rights to legal realities".



Tony Banks, the Sports minister, launching the 'Show Racism the Red Card' video at Leicester City Football Club yesterday. 'Racism has no place in football,' he said, adding that Parliament was considering legislation making it an offence to chant racist abuse. *Kieran Ridley*

you'll find some monster savings on books at amazon.co.uk



The greatest range of savings.
Everyday discounts on the brands and popular books at up to 10% off.
The easiest way to find and buy books.
Find the book you want in seconds by author, title or subject.
Then order with just one click of the mouse.
The widest possible selection.
Well over 2 million books - every book in print in the UK - as well as hundreds of thousands of the most popular US titles.
Experience all this and more on the Internet at amazon.co.uk

click with
amazon.co.uk
books for everyone

Inquiry into why women are paid less than men

AN INVESTIGATION to establish why women's pay falls behind men's was promised by the Government yesterday. Tessa Jowell, minister for women, said that by the time women reached their mid-50s they only earned 66p for every pound men earned.

She hailed the Government's strategy to improve the lot of women as a "programme of listening, a programme of action, a programme of delivery. It is not just what government can do for women, but what women working with government can achieve for themselves and their families."

But, during a debate to mark the 73rd International Women's Day, the Government's handling of women's issues was

FEMALE RIGHTS BY SARAH SCHAEFER Political Reporter

criticised by Harriet Harman, former social security secretary, who accused ministers of "macho rhetoric". After Peter Mandelson's resignation there had been talk of getting in "big hitters, big beasts and big guns" to deliver its message, Ms Harman said. "You can either adopt macho rhetoric or talk like women do - you cannot do both. This government is for women; they should not be afraid to say so."

Calling for more female cabinet ministers, Ms Harman said: "The Government should avoid making policy on their own; they should make it with women." Female ministers

should be given a higher profile to promote key measures such as the right to take leave when their child was ill, due to be introduced under the Employment Relations Bill. "We have not heard a whisper about this new right ... it has been squeezed out by debate about trade-union recognition."

Theresa May, the Tory women's spokesman, accused ministers of putting rhetoric over substance, saying that since Labour came into power the pay differential between men and women had gone up.

The new Working Families Tax Credit would bring more families into the welfare net, she said, while entitlement to widow's benefit had been cut, with up to 250,000 women likely to miss out.

"This Government has not listened to women," she said. "Its priorities are more about its own priorities than women's priorities." Her concern was echoed by Jackie Ballard, for the Liberal Democrats, who said benefit cuts under the plans for welfare reform would hit women harder than men. "The impact of legislation should be carefully examined to ensure gender equality."

But Ms Jowell pointed to a series of measures such as the increase in childcare benefits, the National Carers' Strategy and the introduction of the National Minimum Wage, which had already helped women.

Mr Brown is expected today to unveil a "Budget for families" that hands more state help to poor families.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Weekend polls

THE GOVERNMENT is considering holding council elections at the weekend in response to concern over low turnout in local polls, George Howarth, a Home Office minister, said.

Buy-back aid

LOCAL AUTHORITIES will be reimbursed 35 per cent of the costs when buying back council homes to help buyers in financial difficulties, it was announced by the Housing Minister, Hilary Armstrong.

Widows' might

THE GOVERNMENT will consider compensation claims from people who were misadvised by the Social Security Department about widows' pensions, a Social Security minister, Stephen Timms, said.

Tories decry 'failed' New Deal scheme

THE GOVERNMENT'S New Deal programme was attacked by the Tories after it emerged that only 3.3 per cent of lone parents invited to enter the scheme got jobs after doing so.

After the publication of January's figures, which showed the success rate had dropped from 7 per cent, Iain Duncan Smith, the Tory social security spokesman, accused ministers of wasting £200m on the initiative. Since the programme was set up, 183,353 letters have been sent to lone parents inviting them for an interview but only 6,262 got jobs as a result.

Under the Welfare Reform and Pensions Bill, now going through Parliament, lone parents will have to attend interviews with benefits staff or have their benefits cut.

During question time Mr Duncan Smith added that a fifth of lone parents who did get jobs left them after six months.

SOCIAL SECURITY BY SARAH SCHAEFER Political Reporter

"The whole New Deal for lone parents has proved nothing more than an expensive failure. This is because ministers did not listen or study the project properly," he said.

The figures were published as the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, was expected to expand the programme to over-50s in his Budget today.

A big extension of the New Deal, seen as a vital plank of the welfare-to-work initiative, with the creation of 60,000 places for long-term unemployed, was announced in the November pre-budget statement.

Earlier this month it was disclosed that 43 per cent of the young unemployed who enter the education and training option of the New Deal find jobs, down from 47 per cent.

THE HOUSE



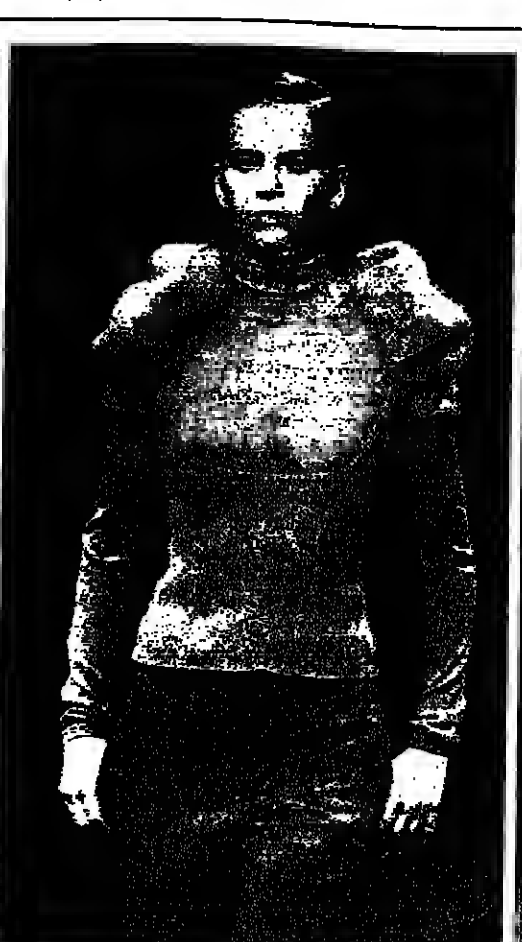
GM animals

Some 350,000 genetically modified animals were produced and bred in the UK for scientific experiments, the Home Office minister Lord Williams of Mostyn said.

Today's agenda

Commons: 2.30pm: Questions on Environment, the Regions and Transport; Budget speech by Gordon Brown; Budget debate opened by William Hague; Debate on long-term care funding. Lords: 2.30pm: Trustee Delegation Bill; Commonwealth Development Corporation Bill; Debate on European report on airline competition; Births and Deaths Registration Bill; Obscenity Bill; Rent Acts Order.

Mr's step



Saint Laurent heir shows few graces

THE PRESSURE was on Alber Elbaz at the Paris collections yesterday. In November – amid blazing publicity – he became artistic director of the Yves Saint Laurent women's ready-to-wear line.

Monsieur Saint Laurent, 62 and perhaps the most important designer of the latter part of the 20th century, would concentrate solely on his twice-yearly *haute couture* collection, we were told.

This decision was controversial given that it was Yves Saint Laurent who put the concept of designer ready-to-wear on the fashion map. Until he opened his Rive Gauche boutique in the late Sixties, fashion comprised *haute couture* – hand-crafted clothing, at prices few women could afford – and cheaper copies run up by dressmakers who stole the original designs.

There was nothing in between. Saint Laurent changed

BY SUSANNAH FRANKEL
Fashion Editor, in Paris

should not be elitist. He was right.

Elbaz, the 37-year-old designer, has said: "The day it [his own appointment] was announced was one of the saddest days for me because I thought about Monsieur Saint Laurent. I thought, 'How does he feel?' How does Monsieur Berge [the designer's long-time business partner] feel? Because it is their baby. They built it and now they are generous enough to say 'Alber, we give you a chance.'"

Relations between all parties continue to be good. Alas, yesterday's show — which, as always, saw the Saint Laurent muse Catherine Deneuve taking pride of place in the front row — was a disappointment. True, the Saint Laurent signatures that Elbaz promised to keep intact were much

based on men's suits and introduced by Saint Laurent in 1968 to relieve women of the overblown eveningwear, the sheer chiffon blouses with pussy-cat bows at their collars, the vivid colour palette.

In this younger designer's hands they looked clumsy, nowhere near as well-cut as the originals. The colour palette, though brave - fuchsia, flame, ultraviolet, and bright apple green - was jarring, simply too not for comfort.

The collection admittedly looked more modern, which must be the intention. Notable exceptions to an unexceptional debut included chic chalk-striped skirt and trouser suits, a red leather trench coat and coat dress.

Elbaz - who worked for the American designer Geoffrey Beene, then Guy Laroche - has some way to go to can live up to the mighty Yves Saint Laurent. This is not surprising. His

Ready-to-wear from Alber Elbaz, left to right: A pleated satin shirt worn over knickerbockers; a woollen bustier worn over matching shirt, and orange satin trousers; tweed trousers with a matching tweed top

Alarms ignored at cell death jail

THE CHIEF Inspector of Prisons has published a damning report on the "unacceptably bad" conditions in a jail where a management trainee was stamped to death by his schizophrenic cellmate.

Christopher Edwards, a 30-year-old man facing a public order charge, could be identified only by his dental records. He was killed on his first night in Chelmsford prison in 1994.

A three-year, £1m inquiry uncovered multiple errors by the authorities, including the failure of prison officers to respond to Mr Edwards when he pressed the emergency call bell in his cell.

During checks at the prison last October, Sir David Ramsbotham, the chief inspector, tested the call bell system three times, and no prison officers responded.

In his report, he said: "The failure of staff to respond to call bells came in for severe criticism in the official inquiry into the murder of Christopher Edwards, by another prisoner, on his first night in prison. We looked to see whether that lesson had been learnt.

"We spent some time on the induction wing and tested the cell call system on three separate occasions. It was working but staff failed to answer any of the calls. This was totally unacceptable. Staff should respond to the cell call system and check the welfare of their prisoners frequently."

Sir David went on: "There can be absolutely no excuse for this, and I am staggered that, in view of what has happened, and of which staff allegedly were ashamed, it should still be the case. It must make me question staff's understanding of the Prison Service's own Statement of Purpose, and their determination to carry out their tasks in the way that the public has a right to expect of them."

Mr Edwards, who had a de-

**BY IAN BURRELL,
Home Affairs Correspondent**

gree in Japanese and economics, was killed by Richard Linford, a paranoid schizophrenic who had been identified by doctors as a potential killer.

The chairman of the official inquiry said neither man should have been in prison and referred to a "needless and tragic loss of life" brought about by "astounding" failures by health and social services.

Linford is now in Rampton special hospital. The parents of Christopher Edwards are seeking compensation for their son's death and taking their case to the European Court of Human Rights.

The director-general of the Prison Service, Richard Titt, said: "I am concerned, as Sir David is, about the apparent failure of the cell call bell system."

"The governor of Chelmsford has now issued strict instructions to prisoners and staff, stressing the dangers of abusing the system and the importance of responding to alarms promptly."

Sir David was so concerned by the "fundamental" failings in management, cleanliness and health care at Chelmsford that he has promised to take the unusual step of returning in a year to see if improvements have been made.

He said: "The areas requiring immediate attention were reception, the induction programme, improvements to health care, the development of a young offenders' programme and the visits area."

The chief inspector said part of the problem was that the prison had four governors in four years.

He was also concerned by a lack of hygiene. Gutters were littered with pigeon corpses, walls were covered in stains of "organic origin" and food was prepared near a toilet.

women
1 men

[illegible]

Paralysed rugby player wins £2m

A YOUNG man left paralysed from the chest down when a scrum collapsed near the end of an ill-tempered rugby game received nearly £2m compensation yesterday in an out-of-court settlement.

Team captain Ben Smoldon, now aged 24, broke his neck in the incident eight years ago.

He won a battle for compensation when in a landmark High Court ruling in 1996 Mr Justice Curtis found the referee was negligent in his handling of the game.

In yesterday's settlement Mr Smoldon, of Sutton Cold-

BY GRAHAM HISCOTT

field. West Midlands, received £1,950,000 from the Rugby Football Union. He was happy with the outcome of the case, his solicitor, Terry Lee, said.

"It has been a long and difficult struggle, but the sum will now provide him with the financial security he needs for the rest of his life," Mr Lee said.

Mr Smoldon said yesterday: "I want to get back to rugby again, hopefully managing — move out of home, live with my partner and hopefully have some children."

CLARE HAS MARSHALL BUT THINKS SHE WANTS HENRY
MARSHALL HAS CLARE AND ALSO HAS LAURA
HENRY'S HAD HEATHER AND ALMOST HAD CLARE
GINA'S GOT MARCO BUT SHE'S HAVING AN AFFAIR
GOT IT?

wonderful
YOU

A new drama about love, affairs and commitment

Tonight 10pm

Soundtrack available from 29th March

tv gets better

itv

King considered cancelling tour of Commonwealth



George VI: Concerned

FEARS OF political unrest and instability in post-war Britain have been revealed in letters between King George VI and Clement Attlee, the prime minister. As royal correspondence, the letters were not due to be opened for 100 years but under the new policy of accelerated release they have been opened early by the Public Record Office in Kew.

In a letter dated 1 September 1951 the king writes from Balmoral Castle of his concern about a planned Common-

wealth tour. "As I said at one of our talks in the summer (and you agreed with me), it would be very difficult indeed for me to go away for five or six months unless it was reasonably certain political stability would prevail during my absence."

It is signed "I am, yours very sincerely, George VI."

In mid-1951 Attlee faced mounting industrial unrest. Engineers, railwaymen, miners, agricultural workers and

builders were among those demanding higher pay. The King was also concerned about the actions of Mohammed Musadeq, prime minister of Iran, which had nationalised the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

And there had been tension between Britain and Egypt over the Suez Canal. The king was worried about sailing through it. "Our unhappy relations with Egypt may, if they persist, oblige me to adopt an alternative."

In the event, Labour's trou-

bles were such that an election was called on 19 September and Churchill and the Conservatives were elected in October.

King George was already ill and tells Attlee: "There are plenty of worries at present to prevent one enjoying anything. I am better for my time up here, though the weather is cold."

In a letter dated 6 September, he writes: "I am going to London, for the doctors want me to take more X-ray photographs that they cannot take elsewhere."

King George never made the tour: his health declined and he died on 6 February 1952.

Another file released yesterday, dated 1963, shows that the Duke of Edinburgh had already started his habit of annoying people with off-the-cuff remarks, having claimed that exporters were being put off by the inordinate amount of paperwork involved.

In internal prime minister's correspondence, Harold Macmillan showed that he was irritated about Prince Philip's

"inappropriate remarks", which he had made at a luncheon over what he described as a tangle of controls concerning export trade.

Macmillan had a briefing sent to Prince Philip with the accurate facts and figures regarding export controls, showing that 80 per cent of exports required only one form to be completed, and that the prime minister was anxious to demonstrate that exporters were not being put off by excessive paperwork.



Attlee: Faced unrest

Mowlam show is hit with nurses

MO MOWLAM paid tribute yesterday to the staff who nursed her when she was diagnosed as having a benign brain tumour in January 1996. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had months of gruelling radiotherapy treatment before being given the all-clear in 1997.

Ms Mowlam told delegates at the Royal College of Nursing's annual conference in Harrogate, North Yorkshire: "It is not just about statistics. It is about the relationship you have with patients. For patients, that is what it is all about."

"I know this from a personal experience when I had treatment two years ago. The relationship made a big difference to my confidence about getting through it. I know from when I have visited hospitals that what patients are desperate to get across is to say what good work the nurses do."

Ms Mowlam's speech was a triumph for the Downing Street artists of spin. She was possibly the only cabinet minister

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

who could have extracted cheers from a disgruntled RCN, burdened with staff shortages on the wards, increasing pressures of work and a divisive pay award.

The Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, stayed away from the conference yesterday - fearing, perhaps, a repeat of the boing that greeted his appearance last year. In his place, Ms Mowlam, who had flown in from the Irish Republic where she had been attending a treaty-signing ceremony at Dublin Castle, delivered a witty, confident performance that paid warm tribute to the efforts of nurses and was equally warmly received.

She offered a "special thank you" to the nurses in Northern Ireland whose commitment and contribution she had seen at first hand. "They've had some horrific jobs to face. They can be faced with an atrocity in



Ms Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, praising nurses at their annual conference in Harrogate yesterday

John Furlong

an inhuman and barbaric form and they will never know when the next one is coming. It adds a degree of stress and tension to the job," she said.

Nurses had played a "phenomenally important" part in helping the people of Omagh recover after the bombing that killed 29 last August, as they had

done for the families of the 3,000 killed and 40,000 injured in the troubles over the past 30 years. "If you have tried to match fingers, hands and bits of body together, that trauma doesn't go away," Ms Mowlam said.

For some people the peace process, while outwardly welcomed, resurrected old traumas that needed new responses. "When families became aware the violence was ending, the problems they had coped with came to the fore again," she said.

Ms Mowlam's speech, peppered with self-deprecating asides - including an account of how she had introduced her personal bodyguards to "multi-

skilling" by sending them out to do the household shopping - was, however, thin on new policy.

She announced an extension of the scheme to allow nurses to prescribe a limited range of drugs, an end to short-term contracts and new measures to introduce family-friendly working conditions.

Speaking at a press conference later, Christine Hancock, general secretary of the RCN, said that she had sent the invitation to address the congress to Ms Mowlam, an old friend, last autumn.

"She brought the phenomenal experience of having been

a patient and having political responsibility for a part of the UK where nurses had to do more and go further. She did nurses the honour of coming to the congress at an incredibly difficult time, paid tribute to them and made clear they are crucial to the Government's plans for the NHS," Ms Hancock said.

However, she said that there were also problems in the National Health Service. "Not all is going well. There are shortages, pressures of work, and people are feeling demoralised. Local trusts vary enormously - some give positive messages but in others people feel very undervalued."

Sarwar cleared of poll fraud

BY NICK MEO

THE LABOUR MP Mohammed Sarwar was acquitted yesterday of a charge of fraud relating to the addition of names to the electoral register.

He denies three remaining charges, two allegations of attempting to pervert the course of justice and one of understating election expenses.

At the High Court in Edinburgh, Lady Cosgrove acquitted him after a withdrawal of the charge by Advocate Depute Duncan Menzies.

The move came as the Crown case was closed on the 29th day of the trial.

The MP's co-accused, Mumtaz Hussain, 41, from Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, denies one charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Sarwar, 46, of Pollokshields, Glasgow, became Britain's first Muslim MP when he was elected for Glasgow Govan in May 1997.

Weeks afterwards the *News of the World* claimed he had paid an election rival a £5,000 cash "bung".

The charge Mr Sarwar was cleared of had accused him of responsibility for adding to the electoral register the names of people who were not qualified to vote in the constituency. The Crown alleged that several Asian individuals had used late application forms to register, at Mr Sarwar's bidding.

It also emerged that he had been forced to give a police interview on the day he had planned to make his first speech in Parliament on December 5 1997.

An investigating officer admitted that fact during questioning and added that police had been unhappy with 56 applications from late voters.

The trial was adjourned until tomorrow.

...for once
get what you
want out of
the budget...

BBC NEWS

Get the budget news you want with the BBC. For detailed reports and commentary on the Chancellor's speech choose from live broadcasts on BBC NEWS 24, Westminster on BBC TWO, RADIO 4, RADIO 5 LIVE, BBC LOCAL RADIO and 3 days of continuous coverage from the Commons on BBC PARLIAMENT. For in depth analysis and special programming turn to BBC RADIO TWO, 4 and 5 LIVE, or Newsnight on BBC TWO. To get concise budget reports watch BBC NEWS at Six O'Clock and Nine O'Clock, with BBC TV Regional News at 6.30pm. Or to have a personal analysis of what the budget changes mean to you visit BBC News Online at www.bbc.co.uk/budget99

PC 'lay in wait to kill woman'

BY BRIAN FARMER

A POLICEMAN lay in wait for his former girlfriend, squirted CS spray in her face then stabbed her to death, a court was told yesterday.

Owen Palmer, 55, a police constable from Norwich, had been "harassing" Christine Johnson, 36, for 15 months before killing her last August. Norwich Crown Court was told.

Less than a year before the attack, Mr Palmer had been warned by Ms Johnson's solicitor that he could face legal action for "stalking" her.

Charles Wide QC, for the prosecution, said Mr Palmer had been unable to accept that his relationship with Ms Johnson, a care assistant, was over. He had waited outside her home in Norwich, armed with a knife and CS spray.

Neighbours and Ms Johnson's parents heard screams and found her dead in the garden. She had suffered "awful wounds" to her neck. Mr Palmer was seen leaving the scene smiling. He went to the police station where he worked and told a senior officer he had murdered his girlfriend.

Mr Wide said the issue was not whether Mr Palmer had killed Ms Johnson, but whether he had been suffering from a depressive illness, which meant his responsibility for her death was impaired. He denies murder and the trial continues.

Want A mortgage that saves you £16,000 and puts you in control?

If you're looking for a mortgage that you can adapt to meet your needs, here's an attractive solution.

- Interest calculated daily, which means you can pay less interest and pay the loan off sooner.
- Save even more time and money with our flexible repayment options by increasing your monthly repayments or making a lump sum payment.
- Give yourself a break from your payments when you need it, or use your mortgage to buy something you have always wanted, like a car (if you've paid more than the minimum repayments).
- Variable interest rate of just 6.20% (6.3% APR typical).

Phone A Mortgage saves you time and money. For example, you could save £16,080.44 interest and repay 6 years and 10 months early by simply increasing your monthly repayments each year by 2.0% on a £60,000 mortgage. This is compared to our 25 year standard repayment mortgage for the same amount. Of course, it's up to you, you can control your mortgage to suit you.

So, if you want all the benefits of a flexible mortgage, call now. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 9.00pm, and at weekends from 9.00am to 6.00pm.

PHONE A MORTGAGE
Call now 0800 783 85 83

Calls may be monitored or recorded for staff training purposes. Rates correct as of 22 February 1999. Further conditions are available on request. Mortgages are subject to status. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Security in the form of a legal mortgage over the property and a life policy is required. All loans require a professional valuation. Minimum income required is £10,000. The offer 10% loan for first time buyers and 50% for existing property owners, based on the lower of the purchase price or valuation. For loans of 40% or above, Mortgage Guarantee Insurance is required. Interest rates may vary which could affect repayments. Typical example: a flexible mortgage of £60,000 over 25 years and 2 months at an interest rate of 6.20% APR (6.3% variable) with 250 monthly payments commencing at £294.20 in the first year (whereby payments are increased by 2.0% each year resulting in 18 payments each of £306.56, £318.58, £330.60, £342.62, £354.64, £366.66, £378.68, £390.70, £402.72, £414.74, £426.76, £438.78, £450.80, £462.82, £474.84, £486.86, £498.88, £510.90, £522.92, £534.94, £546.96, £558.98, £570.99, £583.01, £595.03, £607.05, £619.07, £631.09, £643.11, £655.13, £667.15, £679.17, £691.19, £703.21, £715.23, £727.25, £739.27, £751.29, £763.31, £775.33, £787.35, £799.37, £811.39, £823.41, £835.43, £847.45, £859.47, £871.49, £883.51, £895.53, £907.55, £919.57, £931.59, £943.61, £955.63, £967.65, £979.67, £991.69, £1003.71, £1015.73, £1027.75, £1039.77, £1051.79, £1063.81, £1075.83, £1087.85, £1099.87, £1111.89, £1123.91, £1135.93, £1147.95, £1159.97, £1171.99, £1183.99, £1196.01, £1208.03, £1220.05, £1232.07, £1244.09, £1256.11, £1268.13, £1280.15, £1292.17, £1304.19, £1316.21, £1328.23, £1340.25, £1352.27, £1364.29, £1376.31, £1388.33, £1400.35, £1412.37, £1424.39, £1436.41, £1448.43, £1460.45, £1472.47, £1484.49, £1496.51, £1508.53, £1520.55, £1532.57, £1544.59, £1556.61, £1568.63, £1580.65, £1592.67, £1604.69, £1616.71, £1628.73, £1640.75, £1652.77, £1664.79, £1676.81, £1688.83, £1700.85, £1712.87, £1724.89, £1736.91, £1748.93, £1760.95, £1772.97, £1784.99, £1797.01, £1809.03, £1821.05, £1833.07, £1845.09, £1857.11, £1869.13, £1881.15, £1893.17, £1905.19, £1917.21, £1929.23, £1941.25, £1953.27, £1965.29, £1977.31, £1989.33, £2001.35, £2013.37, £2025.39, £2037.41, £2049.43, £2061.45, £2073.47, £2085.49, £2097.51, £2109.53, £2121.55, £2133.57, £2145.59, £2157.61, £2169.63, £2181.65, £2193.67, £2205.69, £2217.71, £2229.73, £2241.75, £2253.77, £2265.79, £2277.81, £2289.83, £2301.85, £2313.87, £2325.89, £2337.91, £2349.93, £2361.95, £2373.97, £2385.99, £2398.01, £2410.03, £2422.05, £2434.07, £2446.09, £2458.11, £2470.13, £2482.15, £2494.17, £2506.19, £2518.21, £2530.23, £2542.25, £2554.27, £2566.29, £2578.31, £2590.33, £2602.35, £2614.37, £2626.39, £2638.41, £2650.43, £2662.45, £2674.47, £2686.49, £2698.51, £2710.53, £2722.55, £2734.57, £2746.59, £2758.61, £2770.63, £2782.65, £2794.67, £2806.69, £2818.71, £2830.73, £2842.75, £2854.77, £2866.79, £2878.81, £2890.83, £2902.85, £2914.87, £2926.89, £2938.91, £2950.93, £2962.95, £2974.97, £2986.99, £2999.01, £3011.03, £3023.05, £3035.07, £3047.09, £3059.11, £3071.13, £3083.15, £3095.17, £3107.19, £3119.21, £3131.23, £3143.25, £3155.27, £3167.29, £3179.31, £3191.33, £3203.35, £3215.37, £3227.39, £3239.41, £3251.43, £3263.45, £3275.47, £3287.49, £3299.51, £3311.53, £3323.55, £3335.57, £3347.59, £3359.61, £3371.63, £3383.65, £3395.67, £3407.69, £3419.71, £3431.73, £3443.75, £3455.77, £3467.79, £3479.81, £3491.83, £3503.85, £3515.87, £3527.89, £3539.91, £3551.93, £3563.95, £3575.97, £3587.99, £3599.99, £3612.01, £3624.03, £3636.05, £3648.07, £3660.09, £3672.11, £3684.13, £3696.15, £3708.17, £3720.19, £3732.21, £3744.23, £3756.25, £3768.27, £3780.29, £3792.31, £3804.33, £3816.35, £3828.37, £3840.39, £3852.41, £3864.43, £3876.45, £3888.47, £3900.49, £3912.51, £3924.53, £3936.55, £3948.57, £3960.59, £3972.61, £3984.63, £3996.65, £4008.67, £4020.69, £4032.71, £4044.73, £4056.75, £4068.77, £4080.79, £4092.81, £4104.83, £4116.85, £4128.87, £4140.89, £4152.91, £4164.93, £4176.95, £4188.97, £4200.99, £4213.01, £4225.03, £4237.05, £4249.07, £4261.09, £4273.11, £4285.13, £4297.15, £4309.17, £4321.19, £4333.21, £4345.23, £4357.25, £4369.27, £4381.29, £4393.31, £4405.33, £4417.35, £4429.37, £4441.39, £4453.41, £4465.43, £4477.45, £4489.47, £4501.49, £4513.51, £4525.53, £4537.55, £4549.57, £4561.59, £4573.61, £4585.63, £4597.65, £4609.67, £4621.69, £4633.71, £4645.73, £4657.75, £4669.77, £4681.79, £4693.81, £4705.83, £4717.85, £4729.87, £4741.89, £4753.91, £4765.93, £4777.95, £4789.97, £4801.99, £4814.01, £4826.03, £4838.05, £4850.07, £4862.09, £4874.11, £4886.13, £4898.15, £4910.17, £4922.19, £4934.21, £4946.23, £4958.25, £4970.27, £4982.29, £4994.31, £5006.33, £5018.35, £5030.37, £5042.39, £5054.41, £5066.43, £5078.45, £5090.47, £5102.49, £5114.51, £5126.53, £5138.55, £5150.57, £5162.59, £5174.61, £5186.63, £5198.65, £5210.67, £5222.69, £5234.71, £5246.73, £5258.75, £5270.77, £5282.79, £5294.81, £5306.83, £5318.85, £5330.87, £5342.89, £5354.91, £5366.93, £5378.95, £5390.97, £5402.99, £5415.01, £5427.03, £5439.05, £5451.07, £5463.09, £5475.11, £5487.13, £5499.15, £5511.17, £5523.19, £5535.21, £5547.23, £5559.25, £5571.27, £5583.29, £5595.31, £5607.33, £5619.35, £5631.37, £5643.39, £5655.41, £5667.43, £5679.45, £5691.47, £5703.49, £5715.51, £5727.53, £5739.55, £5751.57, £5763.59, £5775.61, £5787.63, £5799.65, £5811.67, £5823.69, £5835.71, £5847.73, £5859.75, £5871.77, £5883.79, £5895.81, £5907.83, £5919.85, £5931.87, £5943.89, £5955.91, £5967.93, £5979.95, £5991.97, £6003.99, £6016.01, £6028.03, £6040.05, £6052.07, £6064.09, £6076.11, £6088.13, £6100.15, £6112.17, £6124.19, £6136.21, £6148.23, £6160.25, £6172.27, £6184.29, £6196.31, £6208.33, £6220.35, £6232.37, £6244.39, £6256.41, £6268.43, £6280.45, £6292.47, £6304.49, £6316.51, £6328.53, £6340.55, £6352.57, £6364.59, £6376.61, £6388.63, £6400.65, £6412.67, £6424.69, £6436.71, £6448.73, £6460.75, £6472.77, £6484.79, £6496.81, £6508.83, £6520.85, £6532.87, £6544.89, £6556.91, £6568.93, £6580.95, £6592.97, £6604.99, £6617.01, £6629.03, £6641.05, £6653.07, £6665.09, £6677.11, £6689.13, £6701.15, £6713.17, £6725.19, £6737.21, £6749.23, £6761.25, £6773.27, £6785.29, £6797.31, £6809.33, £6821.35, £6833.37, £6845.39, £6857.41, £6869.43, £6881.45, £6893.47, £6905.49, £6917.51, £6929.53, £6941.55, £6953.57, £6965.59, £6977.61, £6989.63, £7001.65, £7013.67, £7025.69, £7037.71, £7049.73, £7061.75, £7073.77, £7085.79, £7097.81, £7109.83, £7121.85, £7133.87, £7145.89, £7157.91, £7169.93, £7181.95, £7193.97, £7205.99, £7218.01, £7230.03, £7242.05, £7254.07, £7266.09, £7278.11, £7290.13, £7302.15, £7314.17, £7326.19, £7338.21, £7350.23, £7362.25, £7374.27, £7386.29, £7398.31, £7410.33, £7422.35, £7434.37, £7446.39, £7458.41, £7470.43, £7482.45, £7494.47, £7506.49, £7518.51, £7530.53, £7542.55, £7554.57, £7566.59, £7578.61, £7590.63, £7602.65, £7614.67, £7626.69, £7638.71, £7650.73, £7662.75, £7674.77, £7686.79, £7698.81, £7710.83, £7722.85, £7734.87, £7746.89, £7758.91, £7770.93, £7782.95, £7794.97, £7806.99, £7819.01, £7831.03, £7843.05, £7855.07, £7867.09, £7879.11, £7891.13, £7903.15, £7915.17, £7927.19, £7939.21, £7951.23, £7963.25, £7975.27, £7987.29, £7999.31, £8011.33, £8023.35, £8035.37, £8047.39, £8059.41, £8071.43, £8083.45, £8095.47, £8107.49, £8119.51, £8131.53, £8143.55, £8155.57, £8167.59, £8179.61, £8191.63, £8203.65, £8215.67, £8227.69, £8239.71, £8251.73, £8263.75, £8275.77, £8287.79, £8299.81, £8311.83, £8323.85, £8335.87, £8347.89, £8359.91, £8371.93, £8383.95, £8395.97, £8407.99, £8420.01, £8432.03, £8444.05, £8456.07, £8468.09, £8480.11, £8492.13, £8504.15, £8516.17, £8528.19, £8540.21, £8552.23, £8564.25, £8576.27, £8588.29, £8600.31, £8612.33, £8624.35, £8636.37, £8648.39, £8660.41, £8672.43, £8684.45, £8696.47, £8708.49, £8720.51, £8732.53, £8744.55, £8756.57, £8768.59, £8780.61, £8792.63, £8804.65, £8816.67, £8828.69, £8840.71, £8852.73, £8864.75, £8876.77, £8888.79, £8900.81, £8912.83, £8924.85, £8936.87, £8948.89, £8960.91, £8972.93, £8984.95, £8996.97, £9008.99, £9021.01, £9033.03, £9045.05, £9057.07, £9069.09, £9081.11, £9093.13, £9105.15, £9117.17, £9129.19, £9141.21, £9153.23, £9165.25, £9177.27, £9189.29, £9201.31, £9213.33, £9225.35, £9237.37, £9249.39, £9261.41, £9273.43, £9285.45, £9297.47, £9309.49, £9321.51, £9333.53, £9345.55, £9357.57, £9369.59, £9381.61, £9393.63, £9405.65, £9417.67, £9429.69, £9441.71, £9453.73, £9465.75, £9477.77, £9489

New York weeps for its finest son

NEW YORK bowed its head in mourning yesterday for a man who in life was closer to the city's soul than almost any figure you can think of and who will always remain one of its most powerful and beloved legends. Joe DiMaggio, arguably the world's first sporting superstar, had passed away in Florida.

DiMaggio, who earned the name "Joltin' Joe" after securing his still unbroken 56-game hitting record - the Streak - in the summer of 1941, died in the early hours of yesterday morning in a South Florida hospital after fighting a months-long battle with lung cancer. He was 84.

While there were expressions of grief from across America, nowhere was the loss more deeply felt than in New York, home to DiMaggio's team, the Yankees. Radio and

By DAVID USBORNE
in New York

television station's yesterday aired tributes and played the Simon and Garfunkel song "Mrs Robinson", which laments "Joltin' Joe has left and gone away".

Only last week, the owner of the Yankees, George Steinbrenner, visited DiMaggio in Florida and invited him to perform the ritual of throwing out the first ball in the season's opening game in Yankee Stadium on 9 April. He was too weak then to respond. "He just smiled," Mr Steinbrenner reported yesterday.

DiMaggio was declared close to death several times over recent months since he had surgery in October last year. To its intense embarrassment, the NBC news network four weeks ago

accidentally aired a bulletin saying he had passed away which it then immediately retracted.

In spite of DiMaggio's fame, which deepened when he wed Marilyn Monroe in 1954 - a marriage that quickly soured and left him heartbroken - he remained always a shy and very private man.

"He felt uncomfortable with a lot of people, but yet he was always there as a tremendous representative of our game of baseball," said Tommy Lasorda, former manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

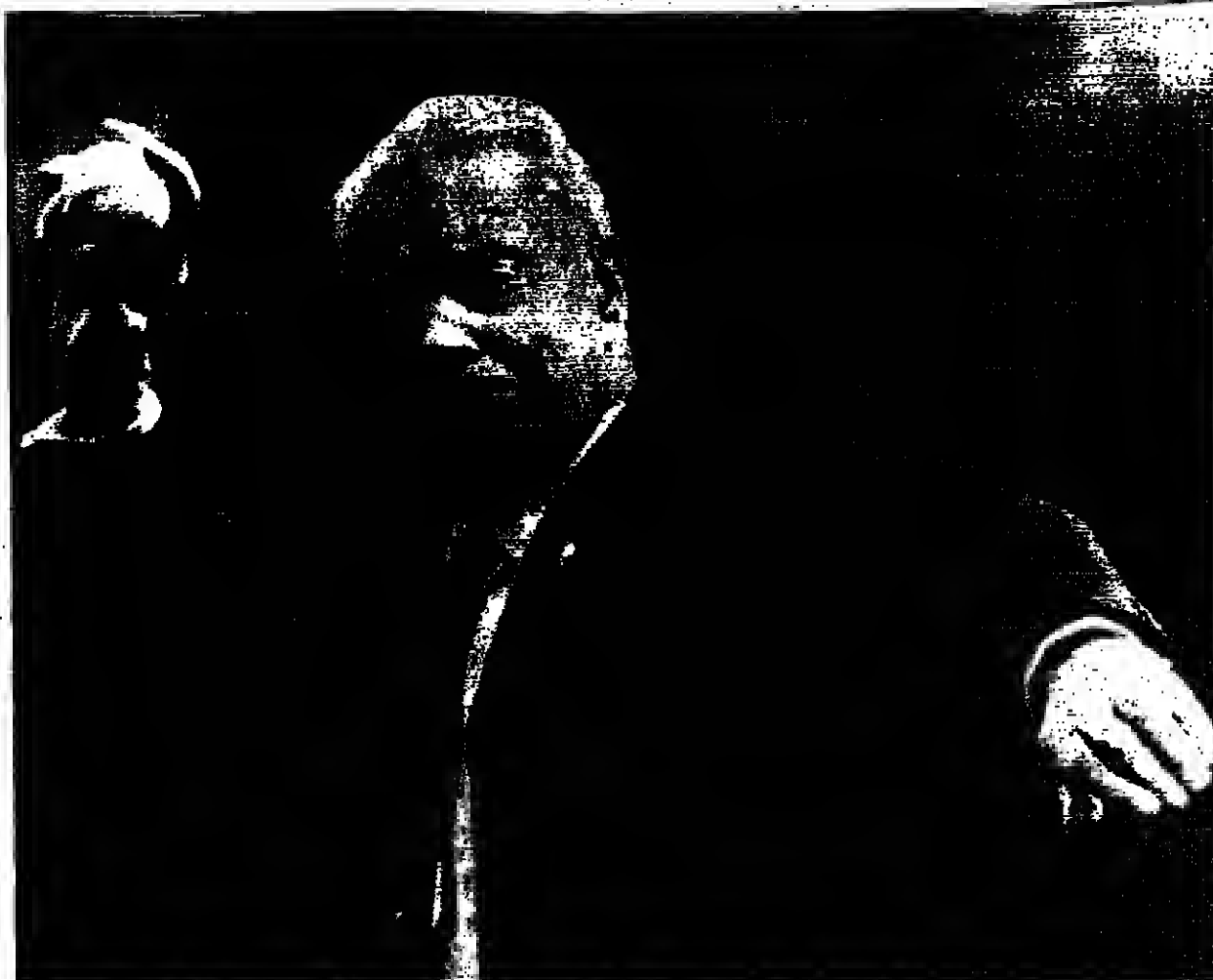
Common to all the tributes paid to DiMaggio yesterday was the notion of a star whose standing as a popular icon had long ago transcended the sport of baseball itself. He may be remembered in part as the first of a category of superstars whose members include

Michael Jordan and Muhammad Ali.

"Even though I was never one who cared about baseball, I care a lot about Joe DiMaggio," conceded Ed Koch, the former mayor of New York. "He represented the best in America. It was his character, his generosity, his sensitivity. He was someone who set a standard every father would want his children to follow."

The Paul Simon song, "Mrs Robinson", was composed for the film *The Graduate*. Meant to evoke a simpler and prouder time in American history when DiMaggio ruled on the diamond, it will be on the New York airwaves for days to come. "Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio? A nation turns its lonely eyes to you. What's that you say, Mrs Robinson? Joltin' Joe has left and gone away."

Obituary, Review, page 7



Joe DiMaggio tossing out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium last April. The baseball star died yesterday Reuters

Your own branch. Open all night.

1.25am local time. A cashpoint in West London.

3.33am local time. On the phone from Karachi.

5.45am local time. On the net from a San Francisco PC.

At any time, somewhere on the planet, someone is checking their Citibank current account. Perhaps keeping an eye on their interest - well you would when you're getting 11 times more than four major high street banks have to offer.*

And with free access to 18,000 UK cashpoints, plus a free £500 overdraft facility, Citibank is well worth a look at any time of day.

Discover free 24 hour banking any time.

0800 00 88 00 www.citibank.co.uk

Quote ref: 1109

CITIBANK

where money lives

*Please note: gross interest rate comparison on balances of £2,000 or more (as at March 1999) between Citibank Current Account and Barclays Bank Account, Mollard Bank Account, First Direct Cheque Account and NatWest Current Account. The rate is variable and paid monthly on balances of £2,000 or more (Barclays quarterly). 'Gross' rate is the rate of interest payable not taking into account the deduction of income tax at the lower rate. Overdraft available with direct deposit of salary, subject to status with written credit quotation available on request. Registered office: 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB. © Registered trademark of Citibank NA.

Women make history in Qatar election

THEY WERE separated from the men by wooden screens, but the women of Qatar still made history yesterday when they voted for the first time in a nationwide poll. There were even six women among the 248 candidates competing in the country's first democratic elections since independence from Britain in 1971.

Qataris were voting for representatives on a new 29-member central municipal council that is to give advice on food and public hygiene to the ministry of municipal affairs and agriculture. This may seem a modest democratic advance, but the elections are seen as a watershed. A national elected parliament is planned and yesterday's polls are a first step towards the legislature that is expected to be set up early in the next century.

Female voters turned up in greater numbers than men at many constituencies in the capital, Doha. "Our women are more educated than men, you know, and they are more eager to see the change," said one female candidate. The otherwise positive credentials of the elections were undermined, however, by the fact that only a small proportion of the whole population voted.

By JAMES ROBERTS

All Qatari citizens over 18 years of age, out of a native population of 150,000, were eligible, but according to officials only 23,000 registered in time. Police and defence personnel were barred from voting. Between 90 and 95 per cent of those eligible had cast their ballots in Doha by the end of polling and in rural areas turnout as polls closed was estimated at 60 to 70 per cent.

Qatar is a political maverick in a conservative region. The emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, has said that people's participation in the affairs of state can accelerate economic and social development. "March 8 will enter Qatar's modern history as the blessed start of an era of democracy and popular participation in the service of the homeland and its citizens," said the Prime Minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani.

The role of women as voters and candidates is a first for the Gulf region. Kuwait, the only Gulf state that has an elected parliament, does not allow women to vote or run for office. Oman's consultative council has two female members, but the body is indirectly elected.

10%
20%
30%

How much will
you let your
car insurance
increase before
you phone us?



Car insurance premiums are set to rise by as much as 30%. Isn't it time you did something about it? For better, cheaper car insurance give us a call now.

CALL 0181 253 8113

www.directline.com

Subject to our standard underwriting criteria. Direct Line Direct Line Insurance and the red telephone are either registered trademarks or Direct Line Insurance plc. The company may monitor or record telephone conversations with the aim of improving its service.

هنا من الأصل

55 من الامارات

And they're off... candidates line up early for race to the White House

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
Washington

WITH THE declaration of the Governor of Texas, George W. Bush, on Sunday and that of Elizabeth Dole officially due tomorrow, the field of candidates for the two main parties in next year's presidential election is being hailed as complete.

A few stragglers may still be mulling over their prospects, such as the Rev Jesse Jackson for the Democrats, and the mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani, for the Republicans. But in the view of the Washington cognoscenti, they may already have left it too late. Almost two years before the victor crosses the threshold of the White House, the list - two Democrats and 10 Republicans - is regarded as closed.

As of this week, the Democratic nomination is being contested by Vice-President Al Gore and Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey. Among the Republicans who have thrown their hats into the ring, aside from Mr Bush and Mrs Dole, are Senator John McCain of Arizona, the conservative campaigner Gary Bauer, former Vice-President Dan Quayle, and the millionaire publisher Steve Forbes.

The exceptionally early declarations for the 2000 election reflect two realities of the coming campaign. This is the first "open" contest for the presidency - with no incumbent running - since the Bush-Dukakis election of 1988 at the end of Ronald Reagan's two terms. And because the last Congress failed to agree on the need for legislation, the campaign will be conducted without the benefit - or hindrance - of new limits on campaign financing, putting acute pressure on all candidates to raise as much money as possible as early as possible. The absolute minimum quoted is \$20m (£12.6m).

A precondition of being able to raise funds - which will start to sort out the probabilities from the possibilities in the large Republican field - is to have a convincing team in place. Mr Bush,



George W. Bush



Lamar Alexander



Gary Bauer



Al Gore



Steve Forbes



John Kasich



Pat Buchanan



Elliz. Dole



Dan Quayle



Bob Smith

CONTENDERS FOR THE PRESIDENCY

GEORGE BUSH and Al Gore are the front runners. Mr Bush's "compassionate conservatism" doesn't wash with key elements of the party machine. Elizabeth Dole is still a distant second. Mr Gore is still perceived as a wooden Indian. The more important the charisma factor becomes, the poorer his prospects.

Senator John McCain of Arizona, a maverick Vietnam war hero, can't be written off, but Bob Smith, the New Hampshire Senator who was one of the first to declare his candidacy, ought to be.

The right-winger Pat Buchanan has twice failed to win the nomination already - and Lamar Alexander, the former governor of Tennessee, is unlikely to survive the primaries.

Ohio Congressman John Kasich, the conservative campaigner Gary Bauer, former vice-president Dan Quayle, and publisher Steve Forbes all fancy their chances more than they should.

Key to prospects

Democrat	Republican
no-hoper	no-hoper
Outside chance	Outside chance
Looking good	Looking good
Hot favourite	Hot favourite

as the distinguished and diverse composition of his exploratory committee showed, and Vice-President Gore, rather less publicly, are both ahead of the field in this respect.

Apparently realising that she risked looking tardy by comparison, Mrs Dole brought forward her announcement of her exploratory committee to tomorrow, when she will be in the Iowa capital, Des Moines.

An additional factor in the early start to the campaign is the move by a number of big

states, including California, to bring forward the primary elections at which the parties select their candidates. In the past, Iowa and New Hampshire have led the pack with caucuses or primaries in February. Now, other states are demanding an early start to the presidential candidates, hoping to command the same sort of attention and influence as the two "advance" states. The result is likely to be the earlier selection of the contestants and a possibly uncomfortable gap between

the selection of the candidates and their "coronation" at the party conventions in the summer of 2000.

The Republican field will be whittled down well before next year's primaries as the would-be candidates compete for funds. If each needs a minimum of \$20m for their bid to be plausible, the chances of Bob Smith, the New Hampshire Senator who was one of the first to declare his candidacy, are already rated slim to negligible, while the right-wing commentator

Pat Buchanan and Lamar Alexander, the former governor of Tennessee, and John Kasich, an ambitious Congressman from Ohio, are not expected to get far.

George W. Bush, thanks to his impressive record as Governor of Texas and his famous name, is far and away the favourite for his party's nomination, although he is still insisting that he will decide finally whether to run in June. Elizabeth Dole, thanks to her famous name and national prominence

is a not-too-close second. Neither, however, has campaigned at national level before, and the more experienced members of the Washington punditocracy note that either could trip up on policy questions, if not on the sort of scandal that almost thwarted Bill Clinton's presidential bid in 1992.

Mr Bush has already fallen foul of some sections of the party, including the religious right, which has an influence in the primaries that is out of proportion to its influence

among Republican voters in the country, and may be enhanced in the wake of the Lewinsky affair.

Any candidate - Mr Bush included - has to surmount the hurdle of the primaries before presenting himself to the electorate and a Republican candidate who can survive the primaries may not be the same candidate who would be embraced by the country.

Although it is taken for granted at this stage that the Democratic nomination is Al

Gore's for the taking, there are rumblings in the party ranks about his electability. He is running as much as 20 points behind Mr Bush in polls that ask voters whom they would prefer as president in a Gore-Bush contest.

So while many analysts are already confidently forecasting a Gore-Bush contest in 2000, others insist that neither nomination is as certain as it appears - even if the candidates' list is, to all intents and purposes, closed.

Woodward lawyers demand review after 'strangle' claim

THE LAWYERS who represented the British au pair Louise Woodward in her Boston murder trial are demanding that the medical evidence surrounding the death of baby Matthew Eappen in February 1997 be formally re-evaluated in the light of new claims that he may have been strangled.

The strangulation charge was made by two doctors on CBS television in the United States on Sunday night. Woodward, who had been caring for Matthew, was charged with violently shaking him and slamming his head. She was found guilty of manslaughter.

Her former defence team was pondering last night whether to request that the strangulation charges be formally heard in a new trial. Such a trial could, if the defence were successful, lead to the ex-

operation of Woodward and the overturning of her conviction. "Frankly, the ball is in their court," said Martha Coakley, a Massachusetts District Attorney, who was one of the prosecutors in Woodward's trial. She said in a press conference that it was the responsibility of the lawyers to decide "if there was any merit or weight" to the doctors' assertions.

Woodward's lawyers said in a statement: "The next step is for both sides to test and verify the accuracy of this new medical information. We call upon DA Coakley and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner... to co-operate in jointly conducted scientific tests to verify this new information."

In the CBS show, 60 Minutes,



Woodward: Manslaughter

Dr Floyd Gilles, chief of neuropathology at the Los Angeles Children's Hospital, said he had studied the medical evidence for six months. He concluded that somebody had pressed their thumbs against Matthew's neck and thus cut off

the flow of blood to one side of his brain. He was backed up by another doctor from the hospital, Dr Marvin Nelson.

Dr Gilles contended that the swelling and brain trauma that would follow such a strangulation could take up to two days to develop in an infant. The implication is that if Matthew was attacked 48 hours before his admission to hospital, there are others who could have been his assailant aside from Woodward.

Ms Coakley said she had spoken to Matthew's parents, Sunil and Deborah Eappen. "They are thoroughly distressed, just at a time when this case should have been past," Ms Coakley dismissed Dr Gilles' findings as "preposterous. No strangulation theory can begin to explain Matthew's extensive brain damage, skull fracture, and severe retinal bleeding."

IN BRIEF

Khatami begins first visit to West
THE IRANIAN President, Mohammad Khatami, begins his first state visit to the West today since the 1979 Islamic revolution. During a three-day trip to Italy, Mr Khatami was expected to discuss trade issues and loans to Iran, which needs to attract investors to aid its economy.

Diner forced to hand in teeth
STAFF AT a Heil Polderhuis cafe in the Dutch village of Bant impounded a man's false teeth after recognising him as a diner who fled the eatery last year without paying a 25-guilder (£3) bill. They said the man handed over his bottom plate on Sunday "after a little persuasion."

France bans hunting of songbird
THREE YEARS after President Francois Mitterrand ordered them for a last feast before his death, France has banned the hunting or sale of the ortolan songbird. Mitterrand ate two of the birds shortly before he died from prostate cancer in January 1996.

Thief pays high price for sin
A KENYAN thief who stole the collection at a Sunday service in All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi, was killed by a bus when he fled with his loot. The man sat through the service without arousing suspicions. When confronted, he ran out on to a highway and into the path of a bus.

Nurse 'killed her three children'

AN AMERICAN nurse accused of drugging her three young children and then suffocating them was ordered to be held without bond yesterday and received court permission for a psychiatric examination.

Marilyn Lemak, 41, seated in a wheelchair and dressed in a blue jail uniform, appeared expressionless during the hearing.

Her right forearm was heavily bandaged from what the authorities say was a suicide attempt, shortly after the killings, which took place last Thursday.

Judge Steve Cullion approved a request by Mrs Lemak's lawyer for a psychiatric examination, on the understanding that it will not determine whether she is fit to stand trial on murder charges.

The killings have horrified neighbours in Naperville, a suburb of Chicago. They say

that the Lemak family, comprising a father who was a doctor, a mother who was a registered nurse and three children ages seven, six and three, was picture perfect.

However, David Lemak, an emergency room physician, allegedly told his father that Mrs Lemak had been in and out of a deep depression since the birth of their last child.

Mrs Lemak is accused of drugging the children, putting them to bed and then suffocating them by placing her hand over the mouth and nose of each child.

A man in Tennessee was so angry when his Oldsmobile car broke down that he pulled out an AK-47 military assault rifle and shot it. Boyd Kelly, 39, was freed on \$2,500 (£1,560) bail after police were called.

"DYNAMITE"

"Yet another explosive system from Quantex"

Absolute Power has just been redefined - Absolutely!

Who else can match this incredible quality and price?

The blisteringly fast Intel® Pentium® III Processor is combined with the brilliant TNT Graphics card and Detonator drivers to produce such a powerful system that graphics seem to explode into life. Quantex has just re-written the book on computer power.

M45D : £999+VAT £1,173.83 INC vat

System Specifications

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 450MHz
- Intel SE440ZX AGPset
- 3rd Generation DVD
- 128MByte Ultra Fast Memory
- 15" Digital Colour Monitor
- Nvidia RIVA TNT 128-bit 16MB Graphics Card
- Soundblaster AudinPCI Sound Card
- Non-Integrated Graphics or Sound
- Mini Powered Speakers
- Microsoft Windows 98, Corel Office Suite 8
- 10.2 Gbyte Ultra ATA Hard Disk Drive
- Year 2000 and 9999 Compliant
- Lifetime Technical Support 24 Hours Per Day... EVERYDAY!

M50D : As above but with a 500MHz processor and 17" Monitor £1,199+VAT

System shown contains upgraded speakers & monitor

Call for special options:-

Special Bonus Pack, Monitors, Warranties and Super Fast BT Highway Conversions, Express Delivery

9999 and Year 2000 Compliant

Our systems are hardware compliant using four digit codes to record the year. For example, the Year 2000 will be recorded as the internal clock as 2000 and not 00.

POWERED BY INTEL... DELIVERED BY QUANTEX

Why choose Quantex?

We have designed a revolutionary new product designed to allow faster 3-D processing and better quality audio. But it doesn't just stop there. With Intel® Pentium® III processors at the heart of our system it takes multimedia to new levels of realism and provides the power for the next generation of Internet and state-of-the-art 3D processing.

www.qtx.co.uk
www.highway.bt.com

To Order: **01438 224444** Fax: **01438 224224**

Where women tune in to Russia's 'Oprah'

FOR THE typical Russian husband, who pays attention to his wife once a year, there was an alternative this International Women's Day to rolling home drunk and thrusting into her hands a bunch of wilting mimosa. He could roll home drunk and give her a copy of the new bestseller *Women's Stories*. The only snag was, she had probably been out already and bought the book herself.

Women's Stories is based on a confessional television series of the same name. It is hopelessly to make a social engagement for a Tuesday evening, as all the bars are empty, the streets are deserted and the blue light of television screens flickers from every home. Russians are glued to a show hosted by the peroxide blonde Oksana Pushkina, the closest they have yet to Oprah Winfrey.

Each week, Pushkina interviews a famous Russian woman about her private life. There is no studio audience. They just have a heart-to-heart chat. Compared with *Oprah*, the programme is tame. But it breaks ground in

Russia where, until recently, Raisa Gorbacheva was the bravest woman here, because she dared to appear in public with her husband, Mikhail, and show that she had something of a personality herself.

The heroines of *Women's Stories* are mostly unknown in the West, although two names mean something outside Russia. Naniuli Shevardnadze, wife of the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, enlivens a dull account of being a political spouse with a description of how her husband howled in an ice-cold Jacuzzi for 10 days when trying to stop smoking.

Lyudmila Rutsikaya, wife of the Afghan war hero and Russian politician Alexander Rutsik, gives a much franker interview about how, on the eve of their 25th wedding anniversary, the man for whom she had sacrificed her own career ran off with a younger woman.

"I did not attach much significance to it at first," Mrs Rutsikaya says. "I thought, 'He's grey-haired, it's just the male menopause.' But when the articles started appearing

STREET LIFE
SAMOTECHNY LANE

International Women's Day in Moscow yesterday AP

in the papers, I realised he had gone completely off his head. At his age, biology takes its toll. He flew to Argentina with her. He came back, I looked at him and noticed he was wearing cosmetics - women's face

cream. I said to him, 'Sasha, how long have you been using women's face cream?'

Pushkina, who learnt her interview techniques while working at American television stations, says courage and de-

termination are the qualities her subjects have in common. She answers critics, who accuse her of banality and muck-raking, by claiming to give comfort: ordinary Russians recognise their own problems in the struggles of the stars and know that they are not alone.

If Russian women had hard lives in Soviet times, when the Communists paid lip service to equality while sending them out to work in road gangs, then their lot has scarcely improved. The Russian woman still faces a low glass ceiling at work and does everything at home for the man who might, if she is lucky, wash the dishes on Women's Day.

The celebrities in Pushkina's series probably had servants or dishwashers but their hearts were still broken by unfaithful men, who left them to bring up the children alone. Larisa Latynina, the woman who trained Soviet gymnasts including Olga Korbut, describes how her husband would go off on "business trips", returning a few days later with large sums of money.

Only after he was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison did she learn that he was a swindler. His downfall ruined her career too, for the Soviet authorities said she could not be trusted to travel abroad and denied her an exit visa.

Hardship, however, has made Russian women strong and Pushkina believes the time is right for feminism in this most sexist of countries. It should not reject men, she says, because they are victims of the system too. Rather, it should be a hearty *bolshevik* (*ladies' movement*) of capable and talented women, ready to help each other and do good in society.

Pushkina believes there is no reason why a woman should not one day sit in the Kremlin. The interview that gave her most satisfaction was with the democrat Galina Starovoi, shortly before she was assassinated. "She was a *klassnaya tyotya* (a cool auntie), the nearest we have had yet to a woman leader in Russia."

HELEN WOMACK

KLA deal
blow to
peace in
KosovoBY EMMA DALY
in Belgrade

THE KOSOVO Liberation Army appeared to dash hopes of an early end to the war in the Serb province yesterday when leaders at a secret meeting were believed to have rejected the Western-backed peace plan.

Western diplomats urged the KLA to agree to the deal and put additional pressure on the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, to consent.

Germany's Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, said the rebels would be making a "historical mistake" if they rejected the plan. The European Union's foreign affairs commissioner, Hans van den Broek, was more blunt: "We need a 'yes' or it will be a big mess."

The main sticking point for the KLA was the requirement that the guerrillas hand over their weapons and accept autonomy from Belgrade rather than independence. The separatist movement is also opposed to Russia's proposed participation in an international peace-keeping force for the province, because Russia is Serbia's close ally.

Sulejman Selimi, the KLA chief of staff, warned earlier that the rebels would not accept a compromise. "Halfway measures to independence are unacceptable unless they lead to full independence," he said, making a rare public appearance with other KLA leaders. They were attending a ceremony to mark the first anniversary of the killing of Adem



Milosevic: Pressure on him to agree the peace deal

Jashari, a KLA founder and well-known nationalist leader. He died with 50 relatives in a three-day battle with Serbian forces.

The gathering of at least 500 armed and uniformed KLA fighters alongside 5,000 enthusiastic civilians was only a ruse from a Serbian military base in the province.

At recent Kosovo peace talks in Rambouillet, France, the KLA said it could not sign a deal before consulting soldiers and local people. Yesterday, fighting continued on Kosovo's southern border, with Yugoslav forces bombing villages near the town of Kacanik. The army prevented international observers from reaching the villages. The ethnic Albanian-run Kosovo Information Centre said Serb forces also attacked villages in the northern Podujevo area for a second straight day, burning at least eight Albanian houses.

Haider poll victory
shakes Austria

THE VICTORY by Austria's far-right Freedom Party may force Chancellor Viktor Klima's coalition to soften support for European Union expansion, observers said yesterday.

The nationalist party of Jörg Haider, who has been branded a crypto-Nazi, on Sunday scored its biggest electoral success by winning 42 per cent of the vote in Carinthia. Mr Haider had been forced to resign as governor of the province

in 1991 after praising Hitler's employment policies.

Mr Haider's victory means the two main political parties can no longer shun him. The European Parliament election is in June and a national election in October, and protest votes could further inflame the Freedom Party's support.

His re-election as governor needs support by two-thirds of Carinthia's parliamentary members.

B.A.'s
TOKEN
OFFER.

You have to collect
9 tokens to qualify.

You have to send off for a
B.A. voucher before you can book.
This can take as long as 10 days.

You're restricted
to a maximum of 5 people.

Minimum stay of 7 or 14 nights
depending on route.

On most flights you
share a screen with everyone.

Up to 50% off selected
B.A. holidays.

Half price fares on B.A.
e.g. New York from £194 return.

It's simply a token gesture.

Everyone gets
their own TV screen

Up to 50% off selected
Virgin holidays

Half price fares on Virgin Atlantic
e.g. New York from £194 return

It's simple. Just call 01293 747 238

For half price fares on all Virgin Atlantic routes, call 01293 747 238 or your travel agent by 10pm 21 March.

virgin atlantic

Fares shown include the discount and pre-paid taxes. Half price offer applies to the following fare types: 14 Day Apex to the USA; Two Month Apex to Athens; 7 Day Apex to Hong Kong, Caribbean and Tokyo; and Instant Purchase Seven Day to Johannesburg. Book by 10pm Sunday 21 March 1999. Outbound travel between 6 April-19 June 1999 inclusive; return travel must be completed by 24 June 1999. Minimum stay Saturday night. Passenger taxes and duties are not discounted and are payable by each passenger. Seatback TV's available on long-haul routes only. All flights subject to availability - popular dates (ie weekends/school holidays) will fill quickly and Virgin Atlantic cannot guarantee availability on some dates. Virgin Atlantic conditions of carriage apply. Freeway Miles will not be awarded on these fares. Other restrictions apply. For groups of 10 or more call 01293 747 238.

Who gives you a
no claims discount
on your Home
Insurance?



Insuring your home with CGU Direct could be a great way to save money. We offer a variety of attractive discounts including up to 30% off your contents insurance with our special no claims discount. For excellent value and comprehensive cover, call CGU Direct today.

CGU Direct

0800 121 004
Quote ref: PRS121



Open 7 days a week. www.cgu-direct.co.uk
Calls may be monitored or recorded for your protection.

Motor Insurance
0800 121 000

Buildings and Contents
0800 121 004

Travel Insurance
0800 121 007

Mortgage Payment Protection
0800 121 008

JP 11/10/150

LA deal
to
ace in
ISOVO

er poll victory
es Austria

gives you a
discount
your Home
Insurance

Direct

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Fortis in \$2.6bn US takeover deal
FORTIS, the Benelux-based financial services group, has agreed an arch-rival Aegion Inc. to the United States, announcing a \$2.6bn takeover deal for American Bankers Insurance, a leading provider of credit insurance to financial services firms. The deal doubles Fortis' presence in that market, where Fortis is already a major player through its offshoot American Security Group. The firms will have a combined annual gross premium income of \$3.6bn. ABI is active in the UK, the Caribbean and Latin America as well as the US.

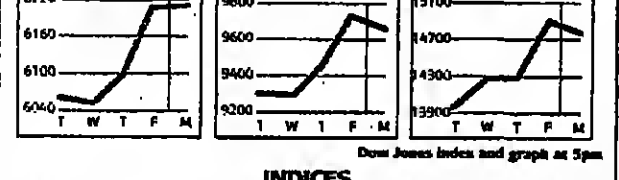
Senior Goldmans partner to quit

JON CORZINE (left), the senior partner at Goldman Sachs, is to leave the Wall Street firm once it is successfully floated in May. His departure had been seen as inevitable after Mr Corzine gave up his day-to-day management responsibilities in January after losing out to rival John Thornton in the power struggle that followed the collapse of earlier plans to float the business last autumn. At a meeting of the firm's 220 partners, which approved the revival of the flotation plans yesterday, Goldmans named David Viniar chief financial officer. Barry Zubrow will take on the newly-created role of chief administrative officer.

Axa warns on stakeholder pensions

AXA SUN LIFE, one of the UK's biggest life insurers, has warned of a law in legislation over stakeholder pensions which could lead customers to "mis-buy" the products en masse. The insurer said the Welfare Reform and Pensions Bill forces them to accept transfers of pension savings from occupational schemes into stakeholder pensions - even when they knew this would make a customer substantially worse off. Pension transfers were at the heart of the £11bn mis-selling scandal, which is still being cleared up by regulators.

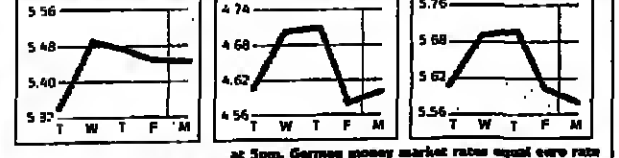
STOCK MARKETS



Indices

Index	Close	Change	% Chg	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6208.80	3.30	0.05	6319.80	4999.20	2.59
FTSE 250	6389.20	10.30	0.16	6570.90	4247.60	3.14
FTSE 350	2946.60	1.30	0.04	2978.70	2710.40	2.67
FTSE All Share	2848.79	2.75	0.10	2886.52	2143.53	2.71
FTSE SmallCap	2315.80	11.40	0.50	2393.80	1834.40	3.90
FTSE Fledgling	1261.60	2.50	0.20	1317.10	1046.20	4.38
FTSE AIM	835.70	6.70	0.80	1148.90	761.30	1.12
FTSE Europe 100	2835.74	-22.72	-0.80	3079.27	2018.15	2.11
FTSE Europe 300	1232.51	-4.77	-0.39	1334.07	880.63	1.97
Dow Jones	9689.21	-43.38	-0.45	9798.70	7480.30	1.69
Nikkei	14773.05	-114.95	-0.77	15352.35	12787.90	0.94
Hong Kong	10263.99	22.87	0.22	11926.16	6544.79	3.41
Dax	4788.69	-50.40	-1.04	5217.83	3833.71	1.81
S&P 500	1272.06	-2.96	-0.23	1283.91	923.32	1.25
Shanghai	2367.87	30.76	1.32	2533.44	1357.09	0.29
Taipei 300	6444.80	39.69	0.46	7837.70	5370.90	1.64
Brazil Bovespa	9526.78	61.80	0.65	12335.14	4575.69	6.50
Singapore S&P	3322.45	-23.73	-0.71	3713.70	2696.26	2.14
Amsterdam AEX	525.52	-4.02	-0.76	600.65	356.58	1.96
France CAC 40	4175.97	-13.59	-0.32	4404.94	2881.21	1.87
Milan MBSE	35759.00	-608.00	-1.67	39170.00	24175.00	1.14
Madrid IBSX 35	9861.40	-143.60	-1.44	10989.80	6869.90	1.77
Irish Allshare	5418.09	29.03	0.54	5581.70	3732.57	1.52
S Korea Comp	571.84	33.65	6.25	651.95	277.37	0.26
Australia ASX	2929.60	27.10	0.93	2948.70	2386.70	3.14

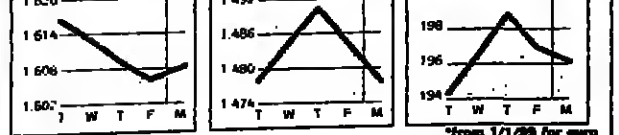
INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates

Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.48	-2.09	5.43	-2.13	4.60	-1.44	4.57	-1.43
US	5.00	-0.69	5.37	-0.45	5.30	-0.94	5.58	-0.37
Japan	0.17	-0.56	0.22	-0.47	1.71	-0.18	2.77	0.26
Germany	3.09	-0.42	3.10	-0.58	4.06	-0.94	5.04	-0.54

CURRENCIES



Pound

Index	Close	Change	% Chg	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6083	-0.026	-1.63%	1.6384
Euro	1.4774	-0.53c	-0.40%	1.4079
Yen	196.02	-11.07	-5.65%	209.29
£ Index	102.10	-0.30	-0.29%	105.40

Dollar

Index	Close	Change	% Chg	Yr Ago
Sterling	0.6218	-0.01p	-0.61%	0.6304
Euro	0.9183	-16.6c	-0.87%	0.8573
Yen	121.91	-10.64	-8.15%	127.65
£ Index	109.00	-0.10	-0.09%	109.10

OTHER INDICATORS

Commodities

Index	Close	Change	% Chg	Yr Ago
Oil (WTI)	11.33	0.34	3.04%	12.75
Gold (S)	288.85	1.40	0.48%	294.45
Silver (S)	5.25	-0.05	-0.94%	6.31

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4707
Austria (schillings)	19.68
Belgium (francs)	57.84
Canada (\$)	2.3706
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8261
Denmark (kroner)	10.71
Finland (markka)	8.5376
France (francs)	9.3944
Germany (marks)	2.8086
Greece (drachma)	461.92
Hong Kong (\$)	1.1260
India (rupees)	61.24
Israel (shekels)	5.9776
Italy (lira)	2786
Japan (yen)	191.51
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8456
Malta (lira)	0.6136
Mexico (nuevo peso)	14.39
Netherlands (guilders)	3.1530
New Zealand (\$)	2.9961
Norway (kroner)	12.32
Portugal (escudos)	285.56
Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8447
Singapore (\$)	2.6208
South Africa (rand)	9.5547
Spain (pesetas)	297.57
Sweden (kronor)	12.87
Switzerland (francs)	2.2894
Thailand (bahts)	54.11
Turkey (liras)	554920
USA (\$)	1.5671

Bid battle looms after £408m offer for Albright

ALBEMARLE, the US high-specialty chemicals company, yesterday launched a £408m cash bid for Albright & Wilson, its UK rival, in a move which could trigger a takeover battle for the troubled British group.

The Albemarle offer of 130p per share was recommended by A&W's board but met with a muted response from Phillips & Drew, the UK group's largest shareholder P&D, which owns a stake of around 24 per cent.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

Insiders said that A&W, which produces chemicals for agriculture and detergents, has been approached by at least two other parties, tipped to be the French group Rhodia, part of the pharmaceutical giant Rhone-Poulenc, a UK financial buyer US groups including FMC and Witco, two large chemical producers, could also be interested in A&W.

Industry experts said that potential bidders were likely to wait before deciding whether to trump Albemarle's bid.

They added that, although the US group's offer was pitched at a 70 per cent premium to A&W's share price before the announcement of takeover talks, a bid war could increase the offer price to around 150p.

"The upside of waiting for a few days is possibly another 20p on the offer price," one investor said.

Shares in A&W have been battered by a cyclical downturn in chemical markets and were trading some 50 per cent below their 1996 flotation price before the start of bid speculation. They closed up 19.5p to 129.5p yesterday.

The Albemarle chief executive officer Floyd Gottwald defended the bid and said that a combination with A&W would boost his company's geographical spread, giving it an important foothold in Europe. He added that A&W's products were complementary to Albemarle's polymer and fine chemicals and he did not foresee large job cuts among A&W's 1,850 UK staff.

The combined group would have sales of around £1.3bn and a total staff of over 4500 people with operations in most major markets in the world.

Ombudsman's ruling flouted by Skipton

THE BUILDING SOCIETIES Ombudsman has upped the stakes in his battle to force Skipton Building Society to pay compensation to homeowners after finding compelling evidence of mortgage mis-selling.

Brian Murphy, the ombudsman, has made a near-unprecedented use of his powers to force Skipton into a public reprimand, demanding it publish details of his findings in national newspapers.

The use of the power - not employed since the late 1980s - followed Skipton's rejection of a decision he made ordering the society to pay compensation to the people he said were unfairly treated.

Mr Murphy yesterday sent a letter to all chief executives of building societies, later passed by industry sources to *The Independent*, saying that Skipton had decided to reject the ruling, endangering the public "as an alternative to complying with my decisions".



Office of the Building Societies Ombudsman
Ombudsman - Brian Murphy

The ruling found that Skipton had marketed a commercial mortgage to an unnamed firm of financial advisers with a rate of "1 per cent over base rates". The actual rate later varied between 1 and 4 per cent over base rates.

Mr Murphy ordered the society to repay the difference between 1 per cent over base rates and the actual rate, fix it at that rate in future, and pay £500 in compensation to each customer affected.

The letter to chief executives underlines Mr Murphy's anger at the ability of mortgage lenders to bypass the formal complaints scheme. While Skipton later settled with its customers, they were left with no bargaining power because his ruling no longer counted.

"I had reached the decision after a very full investigation... I took the view there was compelling evidence the society had mis-sold a mortgage to the complainants and that the society had treated them unfairly."

The ombudsman's action adds fuel to an ongoing debate over whether mortgages should be regulated on a statutory footing. Under current rules, mortgage providers can reject what the ombudsman says - even when he concludes that mis-selling has taken place and orders compensation to be paid.

Instead, they can simply reject the ombudsman's rulings and opt for the "publicity option" requiring them to take out national newspaper advertisements. Customers then have no way to ensure their complaint is satisfied except to go to court.

John Dawson, secretary and general manager of the Skipton, said: "We are disappointed in that we didn't know this letter was being circulated. We have resolved the matter with our customers and they are still customers."

In Skipton's view, the "1 per cent above base" was not meant to indicate a rate for the lifetime of the mortgage. The society says it was not contractually bound to stick to the rate and the customers were not misled.

The Government has warned mortgage lenders they will be regulated by legal statute unless they can show they are capable of regulating themselves.



John Goodfellow, Skipton CEO (top left), and Brian Murphy, ombudsman (top right). Below: The letter sent yesterday by Mr Murphy to all building society chief executives

Strictly Private & Confidential

8 March 1999

I had reached the decision in question after a very full investigation of the facts, including an oral hearing when I heard evidence from the relevant witnesses. I took the view that there was compelling evidence that the Society had mis-sold a mortgage to the complainants and I concluded that the Society had treated the complainants unfairly and/or had been guilty of maladministration.

FTC and Intel settle antitrust action

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

THE US Federal Trade Commission reached a preliminary settlement yesterday with the computer giant, Intel, ending off a test of US antitrust legislation that had been set to rival the case against Microsoft.

The settlement came a day before the FTC was to start the formal hearing of complaints that Intel had used its near-monopoly position in the computer chip market to the detriment of would-be competitors.

No details were given, but both sides expressed satisfaction with the terms. The FTC filed a motion to withdraw the antitrust case and a formal decision, endorsed by the four-member commission, is expected by week-end.

The FTC charged that Intel had "coerced" major established customers into granting access to their technology on terms favourable to Intel, and withheld details of its own technology that would have enabled them to compete. The action was a response to complaints by three companies - Intergraph, Compaq and Digital Equipment Corp - that Intel was soliciting confidential information with the aim of using it to improve its own products.

The principle of the case was similar to Microsoft's, which resumes in the Washington court next month, but there were key differences. The Microsoft case was brought by the Justice Department and is going through the judicial system, while that against Intel was brought by FTC and was to be heard by an FTC judge, leaving open the possibility of an appeal in open court.

The response of the two companies - which between them command more than 80 per cent of the world's computer market - was also different. Intel acknowledged the practices complained of, but defended them as part and parcel of free competition. Microsoft executives have denied the restrictive practices of which it has been accused, but found themselves frequently wrong-footed in the courtroom by their own e-mails and internal office communications.

The settlement, assuming it is approved by the FTC, was deemed to suit both parties. In Washington, had no certainty of winning. Intel could see the legal complications and ill-feeling generated by the Microsoft case and feared a protracted case that could affect its already declining market share.

Intel said yesterday: "Intel is pleased with the agreement and we believe it provides adequate value for our intellectual property," but declined to comment further.

Inchcape set to return £500m to investors

BY MICHAEL HARRISON Business Editor

INCHCAPE, the former motors, marketing and services group, is set to return around £500m to shareholders following its transformation into a business focusing solely on importing and distributing cars.

Details of the payout will be contained in a circular to be sent to shareholders in the next four to six weeks covering the £457m disposal of the group's South American bottling interests.

As part of its withdrawal from everything apart from the motors business, Inchcape yesterday announced a £404m exceptional write-off, plunging the group into a £298m loss for 1998.

Just under £300m of the charge is related to treatment of goodwill and asset write-downs on acquisitions and disposals.

In the past year Inchcape has disposed of businesses worth £550m. Philip Cushing, the chief executive, said he was confident that the remaining two unwanted businesses - its Middle East marketing interests and office automation - would be disposed of by the end of June. Analysts expect the two businesses to fetch around £100m.

The overhaul of Inchcape will leave it with just a car import and distribution arm handling six main marques: Toyota, Mazda, Jaguar, Peugeot and Subaru - and an Asian motors business based in Hong Kong.

Mr Cushing said that Inchcape expected to unveil new deals with car makers in coming months. It is also considering expanding into other areas such as body repair and used car supermarkets.

Despite the promised payout to shareholders the Inchcape chairman, Lord Marshall, warned that sales were forecast to decline in most of the group's most important markets during this year. The shares fell 6p, or 5 per cent, to close at 139p.

Stripping out the one-off exceptional writedown, pre-tax profits fell by 42 per cent to £108m. The biggest single cause of the decline was the reduction in Inchcape's shareholding in the car distribution business Toyota (GB) from 75 per cent to 49 per cent, which wiped £20m off profits.

But the group was also affected by currency translation, which cost it £10m, and by a deterioration in trading conditions in Asia, South America and Russia.

Operating profits in the motors division fell by 12 per cent to £118m.

Dawes pockets £70m from sale

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

A WARRINGTON-BASED mobile phone entrepreneur who started out renting televisions yesterday pocketed £70m when he sold his cellular phones business to Cellnet.

Martin Dawes, a reclusive businessman, started selling mobile phones on the Vodafone and Cellnet networks when they were first set up in 1985. Martin Dawes Telecommunications now has 800,000 customers and annual revenues of several hundred million pounds.

Cellnet is paying £130m for an 80 per cent stake in the business, the proceeds of which will be divided between Mr Dawes and his family, the management and minority shareholder France Telecom. The remaining 20 per cent is owned by Vodafone, which has an option to sell its stake to Cellnet.

Mr Dawes is expected to reinvest some of the proceeds in his other business ventures, which include an Internet service provider and an innovative messaging service called Breeze.

Peter Erskine, managing director of Cellnet, said MDT was attractive because it had a lot of business users - an area in which Cellnet is keen to expand. "They are a major channel and they have a very large corporate sales force," he said. MDT also runs 15 shops and three call centres.

The business is expected to operate as a separate division within Cellnet and will continue to support its existing customers, 80 per cent of whom are Vodafone subscribers. However, Mr Erskine said an MDT priorities would be to sign up new customers for Cellnet.

David Goldie, MDT managing director, will continue to run the business as part of Cellnet.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

TODAY'S BUDGET overshadowed blue chips, with Footsie after a lacklustre session ending just 3.3 points up at 6,208.8. It had moved between a 29 gain and a 30.9 fall. Supporting shares were more resilient; the mid cap index rose 10.3 points and the small cap 11.4p.

Albright & Wilson, the chemical group, was most actively traded as a US bid emerged at 130p a share and CSFB picked up stock on behalf of the bidder. The price gained 19.5p to 129.5p.

Derek Pain, page 15

NEW YORK

US STOCKS were mixed after Friday's record-breaking run. Chip maker Intel rose after settling an antitrust suit, while other stocks were hit by profit-taking. By early afternoon the Dow Jones average was down 37.88 points at 9,698.20, while the Nasdaq Composite was up 30.72 at 2,367.83.

International blue chips such as Procter & Gamble and Johnson & Johnson led the Dow fall, but analysts predicted the Dow could soon top 10,000.

TOKYO

THE BENCHMARK Nikkei index breached the 15,000 level for the first time since December, but profit-taking pushed the index lower in late trade.

The Nikkei eventually closed down 114.95 points at 14,779.05, with the unwinding of corporate cross-shareholdings ahead of the fiscal year end helping to depress share prices. Shares in the financial sector rose after 15 large banks announced plans to restructure, a prerequisite for receiving state assistance.

SAO PAULO

BRAZIL STOCKS were trading higher and the currency steadied as the markets prepared for confirmation of a new IMF deal. The benchmark Bovespa index was trading up 62.03 points at 9,527.12, while the real held its ground above the 2 to the dollar barrier.

The government and IMF were set last night to announce details of a new agreement, which consists of revised terms for the \$41.5bn financial bailout package.

QUITO

ECUADOR debt plunged in value after the government unexpectedly declared a bank holiday to relieve pressure on its financial system. None of the country's 39 banks - which saw heavy withdrawals on Friday - were open to the public.

The currency, the sucre, hit a new low last week amid renewed fears of debt default. Rumours also persist that the government is planning to confiscate all foreign currency in bank accounts, but this has been denied.

INSPIRATIONS

NOVELIST GEOFF NICHOLSON

The Place

I find any stretch of bleak desert wasteland fairly wonderful, in some ways the more anonymous the better, but I'll go for Zzyzx, a former health resort, now a ghost town in the Mojave desert, a few miles outside Barstow, California. It has palm trees, wind-blown sand, curious abandoned buildings and empty swimming pools. It could be sinister, yet I find it totally comforting and reassuring.

The music

Willie the Pimp by Frank Zappa with Captain Beefheart on vocals. This has everything: great lyrics, a fabulous blues vocal and a great strumming extended electric guitar solo. Harold Bloom says that all great art is strange, and of course that doesn't mean that all strange art is great, but there's something about the early stuff of Zappa and Beefheart that still seems as weird and radical as it ever did.

The Film

After Hours by Martin Scorsese. This seems to me an infinitely more honest film than all of Scorsese's homoerotic hymns to violent men who swear a lot. Griffin Dunne wanders around nocturnal New York, pursuing a woman, being pursued by vigilantes, having the sort of edgy, scary, sexy adventures we all dream of having in New York, but are actually rather



relieved to avoid. It's a comedy and so our hero survives but you realise how easily he might not.

The Play

Hamlet was the first hit of Shakespeare I ever really understood and enjoyed. It's a great play to discover when you're an adolescent - all that beautiful suffering. Every 17-year-old lad who's having trouble with the parents and school and girlfriends knows exactly how Hamlet feels. More than any other play I can think of, I carry my own version of Hamlet in my head and oo production is ever as good as that.

The work of art Le Violin d'Ingres. This is Max Ernst's photograph of Kiki de Montparnasse, who has two f-holes collaged into her naked back. There are years when this seems an unacceptably sexist piece of work, other years when it seems sexy, respectful and playful. We "borrowed" the idea for the cover of my novel *Flesh Guitar*, but we made the violin an electric guitar and instead of f-holes we had pick ups and a tremelo arm.

Geoff Nicholson's new novel, *Female Ruins*, is published by Indigo (£9.99)

PAPERBACKS

BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST

A First Rate Tragedy

by Diana Preston
Constable, £9.99, 269pp



THE FAMILIAR story of Scott's catastrophic polar slog is given additional psychological depth in Preston's highly accomplished account. Scott emerges as an introspective, humane man, prone to the "black dog" of depression and a belief in his own ill-luck. He expended much effort in drumming up sponsorship from Colman's Mustard and Oxo, though he failed to acquire the dog-handling skills which resulted in Amundsen's triumph. Another 350 yards a day and his party would have survived - but we would have lost a classic tale of British pluck.

Sex and the City

by Candace Bushnell
Abacus, £6.99, 228pp



THE MOST encouraging thing about Candace Bushnell's book (and the TV series based on it) is that life for 35-year-old singles is one up on being 25 and single. Bushnell's female thirty-somethings are less likely to sleep with the wrong man, wear the wrong clothes or share with the wrong room-mates. Based on her column for the New York Observer, Bushnell's canapé-sized bites of Manhattan life stylishly capture a clubbing and dating scene that you might have thought had died out with Nell's and Jay McInerney.

Diana

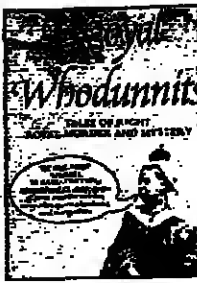
by Julie Burchill
Orion, £7.99, 230pp



LIKE PIGGING out on Kettle Fries, there is a guilty pleasure in consuming Burchill's prose. Irresistibly moreish but mad, this is both a love letter to the most beautiful girl in the class and a no-holds-barred rubbishing of the monarchy ("that monumental blockage in the S-bend of public life"). Diana's excesses, such as the £3,000 a week (excluding clothes) she spent keeping up appearances, are excused, while Charles is lambasted: "Against him, a sloth would have looked wonderful". The flaw in Burchill's thesis is that without the royals, there would have been no Diana.

Royal Whodunnits

edited by Mike Ashley
Robinson, £6.99, 434pp



THESE TWO dozen tales about dark doings within palace walls are painfully bathetic. In a "prequel" to the Scottish play, we learn how Macbeth "allowed a smile to spread across his features" after committing a grisly murder. Such an improvement on Shakespeare's effort. At the court of Richard II, amateur sleuth Geoffrey Chaucer vows, "I will do my best to bring the truth of this affair to light." But this is trumped by Queen Victoria's attempt to save an eminent subject: "You do not look like a murderer of populations, Mr Brunel." Right royal twaddle.

The Ogre's Laboratory

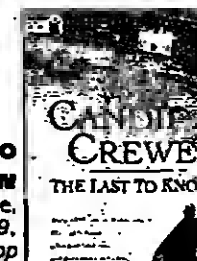
by Louis Buss
Vintage, £6.99, 393pp



THIS DARK spine-chiller features the appropriately named Father Snow, a priest and historian who is posted to a Surrey backwater. Prose is hypnagogic visions. Snow finds that the local stately home is imbued by the spirit of a medieval Moloch called Everard Trevellyn, whose grisly doings he uncovers in the British Museum. Evidence of paedophile activities in the locality suggests that the ogre's baneful influence is still active across the centuries. Despite the obvious debt to Peter Ackroyd, Buss has produced a stylish, disturbing work, its terrors softened by his hero's awkward passion for a local journalist.

The Last to Know

by Candida Crewe
Arrow, £5.99, 264pp



ONE WET weekday evening, Oxford GP Kim Black pops out to the corner shop for some ice cream. He doesn't come home. His wife Sylvie is left with two pieces of curling haddock, and an empty bed. A slim-line plot, but one that Candida Crewe keeps happily bubbling away. An author with a sharp and quirky eye for domestic detail, Crewe builds up a seductively cosy picture of the Black's life in Cowley, an intimate history of their 20-year marriage. Not a story of town and gown, this novel travels well beyond Oxford as Kim embarks on a series of unlikely journeys around Britain.

Book

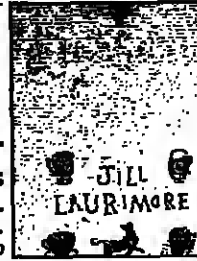
by Whoopi Goldberg
Warner, £5.99, 273pp



IN 25 short chapters, actress, comedian and all-round Clinton groupie, Whoopi Goldberg sounds off on Race, Farting (her favourite topic) and presidential zippers. Like Roseanne, she wears her liberal credentials writ large, as she rails full volume against exploitative chat show hosts and the sinister activities of multinationals. Her pet peeves include men who return from restaurant rest rooms with urine speckled chinos and being referred to as an Afro-American. Yes, the world would be a happier place if we all let it rip; and yes, she is named Whoopi after the Cushion.

Dinosaur Days

by Jill Laurimore
Penguin, £5.99, 339pp



FLISS AND Ivor Harley-Wright are on their uppers, their Suffolk pile sinking into its moat. Their one hope of rescue lies in the sale of their only asset - a collection of Commemorative Drinking Vessels. All they have to do is treat an American lawyer, New York control-freak Tom Klaus, to a weekend in the country. An accomplished mid-Atlantic farce, there are some awkward moments as the Harley-Wrights roll out the red carpet, and several balls of labrador hair, in honour of their very influential guest. A first novel by a writer who is supremely comfortable in other folks' wells.

BESTSELLERS

Published in the same week, John Grisham's *The Testament* and *Coming Together* by Josie Lloyd and Emyln Rees have battled it out for the top slot for the past three weeks.

Grisham had maintained a slight lead until this week when Lloyd and Rees have finally topped him - but only just. *Sixteen X* stays at the top of the non-fiction chart for the third week.

running: *Men are From Mars...* remains at number two for the fifth week, while Lillian Too's *Little Book of Feng Shui* has hovered at number three or four for five weeks too.

Compiled by Bookwatch from data supplied on sales over seven days ending 28 February 1999
© Bookwatch Ltd 1999

ORIGINAL FICTION

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE	WEEKLY SALES
1 (2) <i>Coming Together</i>	Josie Lloyd & Emyln Rees (Arrow)	£5.99	7,181
2 (1) <i>The Testament</i>	John Grisham (Century)	£16.99	7,085
3 (3) <i>Single & Single</i>	John le Carré (Hodder)	£16.99	4,279
4 (-) <i>Sharpe's Fortress</i>	Bernard Cornwell (HarperCollins)	£16.99	2,971
5 (4) <i>The Thursday Friend</i>	Catherine Cookson (Bantam Press)	£16.99	2,234
6 (-) <i>Caroline's Sister</i>	Sheila O'Flanagan (Poolbeg)	£5.99	1,625
7 (8) <i>Liar Birds</i>	Lucy Fitzgerald (Black Swan)	£5.99	1,574
8 (7) <i>It Means Mischief</i>	Kate Thompson (Bantam)	£5.99	1,319
9 (5) <i>Messiah</i>	Boris Starling (HarperCollins)	£5.99	1,210
10 (6) <i>Southern Cross</i>	Patricia D. Cornwell (Ulster, Brown)	£16.99	1,183

ORIGINAL NON-FICTION

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE	WEEKLY SALES
1 (1) <i>Station X: the codebreakers</i>	Michael Smith (Channel 4)	£14.99	4,132
2 (2) <i>Men are From Mars...</i>	John Gray (Thorsons)	£8.99	3,400
3 (4) <i>Little Book of Feng Shui</i>	Lillian Too (Element)	£1.99	2,379
4 (3) <i>The Year 1000</i>	Robert Lacey & Danny Danziger (Little, Brown)	£12.99	2,125
5 (7) <i>Seafood Odyssey</i>	Rick Stein (BBC)	£18.99	2,098
6 (-) <i>Della's How to Cook</i>	Della Smith (BBC)	£16.99	1,627
7 (6) <i>Ground Force Workbook</i>	Alan Titchmarsh (BBC)	£9.99	1,559
8 (9) <i>Official ITV Formula One Guide</i>	Bruce Jones (Carlton)	£9.99	1,447
9 (5) <i>Birthday Letters</i>	Ted Hughes (Faber)	£14.99	1,432
10 (8) <i>Notes from a Big Country</i>	Bill Bryson (Doubleday)	£16.99	885

SPOKEN WORD

BY CHRISTINA HARDYMENT



A Patchwork Planet
read by David Morse
Random House, 5hrs, £12.99

THERE'S AN old country-and-western song called "Gentle on My Mind" which sums up the subtle charm of Anne Tyler's novels: you feel the wiser for reading, or in this case, hearing them. David Morse's husky, resigned voice is the perfect medium for Barnaby Gaitlin, supposedly the black sheep of a philanthropic family, in fact the only one of them to have a true understanding of kindness. Miraculously (and this is a book about angels), he and an endearing cast of needy but sassy wrinkles show us how to cope with the inevitable imperfections of the world.



Cold Comfort Farm
read by Eileen Atkins
Penguin, 3hrs, £8.99

ALTHOUGH FEW people now read Mary Webb, the author whom Stella Gibbons was parodying in *Cold Comfort Farm*, the book remains an evergreen classic. It seems a shame to miss a word of it, but this is an exceptionally successful abridgement, guaranteed to dissipate the most recalcitrant gloom. Eileen Atkins thoroughly enjoys herself as she reads Flora Poste's lines with brisk, Roodean-accented competence, smoulders as Seth, preaches hellfire as Amos and querulously complains of "something nasty in the woodshed" as matriarch Ada Doom.

THE INDEPENDENT
TASCO
BINOCULARS

Save £10 on the R.R.P. of £29.99

The suggested selling price for these Binoculars is £29.99 but we are able to offer them for just £19.99!

They are compact, lightweight binoculars from the world's leading name in optical products. They have 8 x 21mm magnification with sophisticated roof prism design. The folding body enables the binoculars to be carried conveniently and easily in the jacket pocket. The rubber protective covering is shockproof and guards against the occasional accidental knock. Supplied complete with pouch case and 10 year manufacturer's guarantee.



All this at a knockout price of just £19.99 including postage and packing.

HOW TO ORDER Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal order. NO CASH please to - THE INDEPENDENT TASCO BINOCULARS OFFER, PO Box 261, Slough SL2 3RU. Tel: 01753 642234. Fax: 01753 642234. We deliver to all addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 14 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Other subject to availability.

Please send me _____ Pair of Tasco Binoculars at £19.99 per pair inc. p.p. I enclose a crossed cheque for £ _____ (address on back) made payable to THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS (UK) LTD IND376. I will debit my Access/Visa account by this amount. My card number is _____

Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Post Code _____

Send to: THE INDEPENDENT TASCO BINOCULARS OFFER, PO Box 261, Slough SL2 3RU. Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive any other offers from Indigo Ltd. (Indigo Ltd is a company registered in England No. 01753 642234)

Next Week: Michael Bywater profiles the human face; Christina Patterson interviews Edwidge Danticat; and Miranda Seymour seeks the truth about Pontius Pilate

MANDY
PAUL ROUTLEDGE

The Unauthorized Biography of PETER MANDELSON

'The explosive book that triggered his downfall. Sensational. The political book of the year' *mirror*

'Routledge has blown a gaping hole in the cabinet, he has also shaken the entire new Labour project to its foundation' *the Guardian*

'An impressive and convincing portrait' *booker*

£16.99 from all good bookshops or by mail order on 01753 65137



Like *Catcher in the Rye* with Stanley Knives

Nasty stuff, brilliantly told'

Guardian

'Cheeky, entertaining, and in parts dangerous'

Loaded

Awaydays
KEVIN SAMMON

'A superb debut novel'

Select

OUT NOW IN ALL 6000 BOOKSHOPS • A VINTAGE PAPERBACK

Engineers start to emerge from the doghouse

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH engineers are at last emerging from the stock-market doghouse. The aggressive US venture capitalist Kohlberg Kravis Roberts on the stand old TI Group could underline the overlooked value lurking among the metal bashers.

As if on cue IMI, once part of Imperial Chemical Industries, offered a glimmer of hope that the hard-hit sector is beginning to see the end of its long struggle against the rampant pound and recessionary influences. IMI jumped 17p to 252p in often brisk trading with Merrill Lynch talking about a 350p target. TI, after Friday's 8 per cent surge, rose a further 7p to 452p.

Riding on 532p last year IMI has been one of the most significant victims of the engineering crash. But profits at the top end of the range, £152.2m against £146.5m, and indications of a trading pickup encouraged investors.

It was enough to lift Senior Engineering 5p to 137p; Weir 5p to 257p, and the new giant of the engineering industry,

CAPE INNS, the pnh chain known to be in bid talks, frothed 19p higher to 220.5p as speculation mounted a deal could be near.

Burtonwood, which has had close links with the pnh group for a long time and is now concentrating on its retail operations after giving up control of its brewery, is one rumoured suitor.

Another is Century Inns, which is thought to be keen to extend its pubs estate.

STR Siebe, 3p to 270p. It has surrendered a 49 per cent stake to KKR for £94.4m. The deal is expected to be a TI acquisition spree.

With the looming Budget inhibiting trading the market experienced a low-key session with Footsie managing a 3.3 points gain to 6,208.8. It failed to gain any inspiration from New York, which looked decidedly uncertain during London hours.

The market's undercard, not so much influenced by Wall Street, was less subdued with the mid-cap making further headway, up 10.8 at 5,359.2, and the small cap 11.4 higher at 2,215.8.

The day's turnover was inflated by a chemical reaction in Albright & Wilson. Volume, according to Seag, was almost 68 million shares as Albemarle, a US group, launched a 130p share bid (£408m) for the hard-pressed chemical group. The shares jumped 19.5p to 129.5p.

But there is a sneaking suspicion the game is not yet over and Albright will collect further offers. Indeed Phillips & Drew, the fund manager with 24 per cent, seemed decidedly unimpressed by the terms.

As if anticipating shareholder reluctance CSFB moved into the market, picking up Albright shares for the US

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

group. It managed to acquire 18.6 per cent.

Other chemical groups scored from the action. Vile Catto rose 15p to 288p and Hickson International 3.5p to 40p. Brent International, where bid talks have dragged on, rose 1.5p to 111.5p. The latest story is that the group intends to sell one of its divisions for £25m, before a deal with the hovering predator is completed.

Jockeying for position ahead of the Footsie changes provided the blue-chip highlight. Tomkins, the old style conglomerate with the buns to guns tag, seems to be destined for relegation and fell 10p to 210p. Safeway, the supermarket chain, another endangered Footsie species, gave up 5p to 248.5p but Williams, the security group, hardened a shade to 360p.

South African Breweries arrived to confuse the promotion process. It seemed to be determined to qualify for membership of the exclusive club,

achieving a 45p close, up 20p from Friday "when issued" price, in its first day of full dealings. The miner Billiton is one South African group that is already a Footsie member and other Springbok companies are also seeking a London listing. This could lead to four South African companies claiming membership of the blue-chip index.

Corporate Services endangered its membership of the mid-cap index, with a 53p slide to 113p after a profits warning. Sage, the computer group involved in investment rounds, put on 42.5p to 2,012.5p.

Reuters, with investment briefings due to start today, improved 18.5p to 903p. National Power, as bid speculation returned, sparked a 10p gain to 494.5p. The under-performing group is seen as ripe for a US assault.

EMI was not in time to welcome its new chairman, Eric Nicol, the shares fell 8.75p to 440p. United Biscuits,

which has failed to crunch the numbers under Mr Nicol's stewardship, firmed 2p to 183p. Scottish Media had an eventful session, ending 34p off at 848p. Upbeat comments failed to have much impact with the market, speculating about possible bid action following the Mirror's decision to sell its 18.6 per cent stake.

Widney, the engineer, fell 3p to 37.5p after a special shareholders' meeting was called by shareholders representing nearly 13 per cent of the capital. The "rebels" include SEP Industrial Holdings, unchanged at 10p; they want the board removed.

Expansion at leisure group Queensborough, seems to have hit a brick wall. Its plan to buy 46 outlets from City Centre Restaurants to allow it to roll out a new casual catering concept has been hit by its failure to raise cash for the deal. The shares fell 1.5p to 17p with CCR off 2.5p to 56p.

Internet links lifted Methvens, the bookshop chain, 10p to 41.5p. Newcomer Sports Internet had the right associations to close at 88.5p.

TADPOLE TECHNOLOGY slipped 1.75p to 14.5p in brisk trading.

The long time high-tech casualty - the shares were once 307.5p - has enjoyed some support lately because of rumours about a mobile computer it has developed which detects leaks and should make life easier for water companies.

Presentations on the fledgling product, called Java, are said to have been well received and Tadpole may soon be able to produce further details.

an astonishing 244 per cent improvement on the placing price. The company, run by former Leeds Sporting chief executive Chris Akers, is looking for sports operations with web links. Trafficmaster motorised 202.5p to 1,030p following a traffic information link with German giant Mannesmann.

Staffware, a software group, rose 50p to 242.5p after an upbeat trading performance.

The recovering crude oil price produced a little firmness on the oil patch. Enterprise Oil, partly on hopes of progress in its talks with Lasmo, fared 10.75p to 308.75p but Lasmo fared 5.75p to 127.5p. Tullow Oil, under pressure because of its failure to hit the jackpot in Bangladesh, rallied 4.5p to 56.5p on stories of an Egyptian deal.

RJB Mining shaded 0.5p to 61.5p as the possibility of a miners' strike continued to haunt the hard pressed group. Talks about resolving the dispute are due to take place today.

Depressed properties showed signs of life with Topes Estates leading the way with a 20p gain to 117.5p. Netcall jumped 18.5p to 66.5p on reports a bidder is interested in the telecoms group.

SEAQ VOLUME: 946.6M
SEAQ TRADES: 8,763
GILTS: 113.3-0.15

Healthy boost for Nycomed shares after £223m profit

NYCOMED AMERSHAM, the Anglo-Norwegian health technology group, yesterday pleased the City with a solid set of results despite tough conditions in some of its important markets.

The company, which produces high-technology equipment to diagnose diseases and test drugs, dispelled some of the stock market's worst fears with a 12 per cent rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £222.8m. Sales were up 1 per cent to £1.38bn.

The figures were at the top end of analysts' expectations, and triggered a 25p rise in the share price to a five-year high of 460p. The stock was also boosted by the announcement that the group, formed from the 1997 link-up between Britain's Amersham and Norway's Nycomed, had achieved £22m of merger savings and was "firmly on course" to meet its target of £70m annual cost cuts from next year. The final results, the first since the merger, were buoyed by good sales growth in the group's core imaging and drug discovery divisions.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

The performance of Nycomed's imaging products, used to diagnose and treat diseases, was one of the City's main worries. The company has been hit hard by a slump in the price of X-ray equipment in the important US market amid fierce competition, and it had been feared that the fall in those products could drag down the whole division.

However, profits in the imaging division, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of group profits, rose 14 per cent to £158.9m. Bill Castell, chief executive, said sales growth in Nycomed's high-technology products had offset the expected collapse in X-ray turnover.

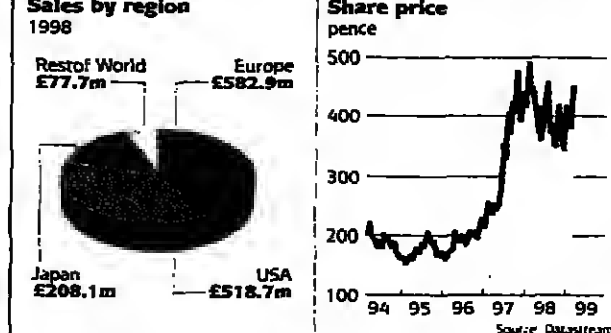
Star performers were the heart-imaging agent Myoview, which experienced a 43 per cent leap in sales, and iodine seeds, used to treat prostate cancer, where turnover more than doubled. Mr Castell said that this year the division should benefit from an improvement in the US X-ray

NYCOMED AMERSHAM: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £2.9bn, share price 460p (+25p)

Trading record	1997	1998	1999*
Turnover (£bn)	1.38	1.39	1.51
Pre-tax profits (£m)	198.60	222.80	253.00
Earnings per share (p)	17.60	20.00	22.00
Dividends per share (p)	4.60	5.3	5.8

*analysts estimates



market. "We think that the market has bottomed out and should be flat to 1999," he said. But even if X-rays recover, they are unlikely to provide much of a fillip for Nycomed, as

they are a low-margin product. The key to the group's future growth lies in its more sophisticated, higher-margin equipment. Myoview and iodine seeds are promising products

and should grow strongly in the next few years as they increase penetration of the lucrative US market.

The pipeline looks interesting, with an ultrasound heart product and a device to detect Parkinson's disease expected to yield solid sales.

On the drug research side, Nycomed's pledge to buy out its joint venture partner, Pharmacia & Upjohn, in the near term will give it control of a cash-generative business.

The company's promised disposal of its underperforming drug division, which last year suffered a fall in profits due to the Russian financial crisis, will also help to streamline operations.

Michael King, pharmaceutical analyst at SG Securities, believes that, given Nycomed's earnings potential, the shares - on 21 times 1999 forecast earnings of £253m - are a buy. "I am forecasting earnings growth of 12 to 15 per cent in the long term and I believe that [the share price] is still good value," he said.

CMG shrugs off fear of downturn

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

CMG, the Anglo-Dutch computer services group, yesterday brushed off fears of a slowdown in the information technology sector with a confident prediction that demand for its services would continue to be strong.

Cor Stutterheim, CMG chairman, admitted that worries about the year 2000 computer bug might cause companies to put projects on hold in the second half. However, he stressed that CMG's long-term ties with customers meant it would continue to outperform the market.

Chris Banks, finance director, said: "Public perception may be of a slowdown in some areas, but we don't see any reason for a slowdown. Demand remains strong."

CMG reported pre-tax profits of £57.5m for the year to December, comfortably ahead of analysts' expectations. Excluding goodwill amortisation and exchange rates, profits grew 58 per cent.

Clouds dim prospects for Thomson Travel

BY NIGEL COPE

Associate City Editor

THOMSON TRAVEL Group, Britain's largest package holiday company, which came to the market last year, yesterday pledged to fight to hold its position as speculation increased that third-placed First Choice Holidays will fall to a bid.

Airtours and Preussag, the dominant shareholder in Thomas Cook, are the most likely buyers. Thomson holds 29 per cent of the UK market for holidays booked through travel agents, ahead of Airtours with 17 per cent and First Choice and Thomas Cook with 16 per cent.

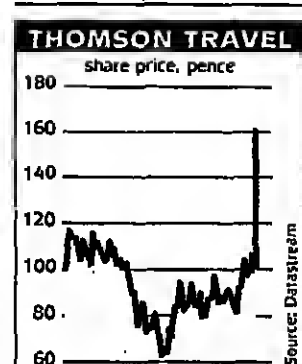
The company said it expected to play "a key role" in the consolidation sweeping the holidays industry in Europe. After seven acquisitions since the float, it is looking for bolt-on deals in Europe, especially in Germany and the Benelux countries.

The comments came as Thomson reported a 10 per cent rise in full-year profits to £122.9m. However, Thomson shares fell 10.5p to 161p, below

the 170p issue price last May, on a disappointing trading update.

Thomson's bookings for summer this year are 2 per cent lower than the period last year. This is better than the industry average of a 3 per cent fall, but it contrasts with a 5 per cent rise announced by Airtours.

Thomson has proved a disappointing investment for the



500,000 small investors who subscribed. They should be encouraged that capacity has been cut by 3 per cent this summer, reducing the danger of a glut of discounted holidays.

Thomson is expanding outside the UK - it now operates in eight countries - and developing its higher margin specialist holidays with purchases such as the Simply Travel/Headwater business. It is also growing its travel agency chain, with yesterday's £3.5m acquisition of the Robert Sibbald network in Scotland taking its total high-street portfolio to 840.

But there are clouds on the horizon. One is the prospect of Airtours exploiting its strength with more capacity. Another is the uncertainty over First Choice and the possibility of an aggressive overseas operator invading the UK market.

On current-year forecasts of £137m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 16. Merrill Lynch says that is high enough for now.

No black holes at the 'IC'

WHAT IS going on at Investors Chronicle, that revered weekly bible of the small investor? A mole tells us that several freelancers have been sent packing because whoever drew up the budget apparently forgot the magazine comes out weekly rather than monthly, forcing a reassessment of priorities.

Rumour has it the IC is having to find a few hundred thousand in savings to balance the books. An official spokesman for Pearson, which owns IC and its daily stablemate the FT, admitted to some belt tightening but insisted that any talk of black holes was wide of the mark. No doubt all will be revealed more and more when Marjorie Scardino delivers the results on Wednesday.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

health technology group, is proud of the revolutionary products the company makes for people with heart defects.

Mr Castell personally trots the globe testing rival heart products - so he must have one of the most tested hearts in the world. The chief executive told me yesterday: "I'm 51 so I need my heart testing anyway." How nice to combine business with pleasure.

Oooh, Doctor!

OXFORD UNIVERSITY recently advertised six open lectures on the history of the political structure of British broadcasting, to be given by the first New International Visiting Professor of Broadcasting Media and Chief Executive of



Channel 5, Dr David Elstein. The use of "Dr" prompted unkind speculation in media circles over the nature of the doctorate in question.

Given Channel 5's much publicised output of late night soft porn recently, some suggested it might be a medical qualification of some sort. Oxford subsequently admitted the doctorate was their invention, hinting the mistake on the traditional "temp in our office" and adding for the sake of complete accuracy: "News International called to say that he's an MA - from Cambridge."

Millennium bog

THE APPROACH of the year 2000 has led to much mention

in the French language press (France, Switzerland, Belgium, Canada...) of "la bogue" - pronounced "bog" - Not a synonym for les toilettes but merely a reference to the millennium bug.

Meanwhile, French mayors impelled to overspend on celebrations of the computer meltdown have coined a variation on noblesse oblige: "millionnaire oblige".

Gas guzzlers

ROBERT BARRIE, an economist with CSFB, is worried about what Gordon Brown will say today on petrol duty. Mr Barrie owns six vintage racing cars - and whenever he races them at Le Mans and other tracks they guzzle petrol, averaging around six miles a gallon. I gather, Ouch. It's just as well Mr Barrie doesn't smoke and collect malt whisky.

All aboard

NOW THAT bonus season is drawing to a close, the City jobs

merry-go-round has started spinning again. Heading for the exit at the Bishopsgate offices of BT Alex Brown, where the takeover by Deutsche Bank has unsettled spirits, are Alex Graham, head of global syndication and European capital markets, and Matthew Collins, head of European debt.

Mr Graham clearly could not measure up to Michael Coburn, Deutsche's existing global head of syndication who was poached three years ago from Warburg as off to Donaldson Lukin Jenrette to head their new head of European equity capital markets, while Mr Collins is off to Merrill Lynch to work alongside Guy Dawson, himself a sometime Deutsche refugee as head of European leveraged finance on a remuneration package of £4m.

That leaves Deutsche and Merrill all square. Deutsche having poached leveraged finance hotshot Tom Gahan from Merrill a few weeks ago.

E-mail: jwillcock@independent.co.uk

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Starting	Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar	Spot	1 month	3 month	Euro
UK	1.0000				0.8216	0.8218	0.8222	0.8226	
Australia	2.5271		2.5500		1.5894	1.5900	1.5906	1.5912	
Canada	20.941		20.971		12.64	12.64	12.64	12.64	
Denmark	1.0000		1.0000		37.07	37.07	37.07	37.07	
France	2.5271		2.5500		1.5894	1.5900	1.5906	1.5912	
Germany	2.5271		2.5500		1.5894	1.5900	1.5906	1.5912	
Italy	1.0000		1.0000		1.5894	1.5900	1.5906	1.5912	
Japan	1.0000		1.0000		1.5894	1.5900	1.5906	1.5912	
Netherlands	1.0000		1.0000		1.5894	1.5900	1.5906	1.5912	
Sweden	1.0000		1.0000		1.5894	1.5900	1.5906	1.5912	
Switzerland	1.0000		1.0000		1.5894	1.5900	1.5906	1.5912	
USA	1.0000		1.0000		1.5894	1.5900	1.5906	1.5912	

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Starting	Dollar	Country	Starting	Dollar
Argentina	1.0007	0.0950	Great Britain	73.630	45.770
Brazil	3.1772	1.0700	Poland	62.578	38.800
Canada	13.718	8.2705	Russia	8.2722	3.8859
China	59.701	34.825	Spain	5.8570	3.8449
France	5.4794	23.651	South Korea	1993.2	23.650
Germany	3.8975	22.510	Thailand	60.085	37.350
India	14.887	80.000	Turkey	57.851	39.951
Italy	13.217	13.100	UAE	5.9980	3.6729
Japan	2.3338	2.3442			
UK	1.0007				

INTEREST RATES

UK	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Japan (Avg)	3.15%
Base				Discount	0.50%
Bankers' Certificate	5.50%			Discount	
Bankers' Bill	4.50%			Discount	
Bankers' Deposit	2.00%			Discount	
Bankers' Loan	3.00%			Discount	
Prime	6.75%			Discount	

BOND YIELDS

Country	3m	6m	1y	2y	3y	5y	10y	30y
Australia	4.72	0.02	4.68	0.08	4.96	-0.01	5.22	-0.03
Belgium	2.99	0.00	2.98	0.00	3.10	-0.06	3.72	-0.03
Canada	4.89	-0.01	5.15	-0.02	5.25	-0.01	5.30	0.04
France	3.09	-0.01	3.10	-0.03	3.07	0.02	3.02	0.04
Germany	3.09	-0.01	3.03	0.00	3.05	-0.02	3.05	0.04
Italy	3.09	-0.01	3.10	-0.03	3.05	-0.01	3.05	0.04
Japan	2.98	0.00	3.04	0.00	3.17	-0.01	3.19	0.00
Netherlands	3.09	-0.01	3.03	0.00	3.05	-0.02	3.05	0.04
Sweden	3.09	-0.01	3.10	-0.03	3.05	-0.01	3.05	0.04
Switzerland	3.09	-0.01	3.03	0.00	3.05	-0.02	3.05	0.04
USA	4.51	0.00	4.57	0.25	5.10	0.02	5.19	0.03

www.bloomberg.com/uk Source: Bloomberg

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. Price	Open Interest
Long Bond	Mar-99	115.24	116.00	115.75	9218.00
Short Bond	Mar-99	115.24	116.00	115.75	9218.00
Long Euro	Mar-99	111.67	112.00	111.67	11336.00
Short Euro	Mar-99	111.67	112.00	111.67	11336.00
Long 100	Mar-99	115.24	116.00	115.75	16330.00
Short 100	Mar-99	115.24	116.00	115.75	16330.00
Long 500	Mar-99	115.24	116.00	115.75	16330.00
Short 500	Mar-99	115.24	116.00	115.75	16330.00
Long 1000	Mar-99	115.24	116.00	115.75	

SPORT

Premiership pressures: Pursuit of the championship under stricter refereeing is taking its toll

Prospects of success hidden in the cards

MARK LAWRENSEN, the former Liverpool player now a media pundit, recalls taking over as manager of Oxford United late in the season and discovering his centre-halfs had a habit of bookings between them. "That's when I knew we were in trouble," he said.

Lawrensen was a cultured defender but he knew that there were times when the boot had to go in. Successful teams are made of winners and winners tend not to care whose toes they tread on, or ankles they clip, in pursuit of victory.

Such single-minded determination can prove expensive as it leads to bookings, dismissals and suspensions. In the past this danger was reduced for good sides as they tended to dominate possession and were less likely to commit fouls. Thus the fine disciplinary records of Liverpool and Nottingham Forest in the 80s.

However, as the tempo of the game has increased, and referees become stricter, the better sides have also become regular offenders but this year two of the season's three heavyweights appear to be taking the principle of giving no quarter to extremes.

In all competitions Arsenal and Chelsea have each had seven players sent off, double the Premiership average and only exceeded within the division by Blackburn's nine. Arsenal have also received 66 yellow cards and Chelsea 82 - a figure only surpassed by Everton. This season Chelsea players have missed 31 matches through suspension. There will be more to come for they were at it again at the weekend, having three players booked, one of whom, Roberto Di Matteo, was then sent off. Arsenal had four players booked.

The third contender, Manchester United, also finished a man short, Paul Scholes being dismissed in Sunday's FA Cup tie with Chelsea. This would not have been unusual a few years ago when United were regarded as a snarling, bruising side with Paul Ince, Roy Keane, Eric Cantona, Mark Hughes and Steve Bruce forming a formidable backbone. Now, compared to Arsenal and Chelsea, they are relative angels. Scholes was their fourth player to be dismissed while their bookings tally, from 44 matches, four more than their rivals, is 65. They also top the Fair Play League - Arsenal are joint seventh, Chelsea in the bottom half. United's improvement is not an accident.

BY GLENN MOORE
Football Correspondent

As well as attempting to cultivate a more appealing team, Ferguson has sought to reduce suspensions which have previously cost United dear in Europe. But Ferguson could not resist criticising Sunday's referee, Paul Durkin. Gianluca Vialli, as usual, kept his own counsel and Arsène Wenger, unusually, sympathised with Saturday's official, Steve Dunn. Ferguson felt the yellow card tackles were "innocuous" but while Scholes' first booking seemed harsh his second invited a caution. Durkin could also have been harder on Roy Keane and Phil Neville. He said yesterday he was happy with his decisions having viewed the match video.

At Highbury, Wenger felt Dunn had "a difficult match", a belief exemplified by Lee Carsley's crumpling first-half tackle on Dennis Bergkamp which he, correctly, allowed. Good though the tackle was it was high risk and this is where responsibility comes down to players rather than referees. Had Carsley mistimed his tackle by a fraction he could have been off, Mark Hughes and Dennis Wise may suggest, as they did on Sky, that such tackles are part of the game but it should be clear to players by now that they risk a caution at least.

A look at the scars on Marco van Basten's ankles is justification enough for the stricter refereeing. The answer, for defenders, is to stay on their feet as was brilliantly demonstrated by Marcel Desailly on Sunday. Time and again he not only dispossessed his opponent but also won possession, which is not common when a tackler goes to ground. True, he was booked, but that was for pulling Ole Gunnar Solskjær back, not for taking his legs from under him.

So far Arsenal and Chelsea have largely survived the glut of suspensions, though Arsenal's European campaign was severely undermined by their indiscipline. This is largely due to the strength of their squads, whether they continue to do so, as the games become ever more important, remains to be seen. Already the Chelsea match-day programme is left to reflect that, given the club's problems with suspensions, international call-ups and injuries, selecting the side "is like running a Sunday morning team". So, at times, is its behaviour.



Chelsea's Roberto Di Matteo (top) and Paul Scholes (bottom right) are dismissed by Paul Durkin during Sunday's FA Cup tie, while (bottom left) Steve Dunn shows Emmanuel Petit red against Wolves in the FA Cup fourth round. *Empics/PA/Allsport*

ROLL OF DISHONOUR: THE TOP THREE'S DISCIPLINARY RECORD

ARSENAL			CHELSEA			MANCHESTER UNITED			PREMIERSHIP DISMISSALS		
	Yellow	Red		Yellow	Red		Yellow	Red			
Patrick Vieira	8	1	Roberto Di Matteo	10	1	Paul Scholes	9	1	Arsenal	7	
Nigel Winterburn	9	0	Franck Leboeuf	9	1	Roy Keane	10	1	Aston Villa	2	
Emmanuel Petit	6	2	Dennis Wise	6	3	Gary Neville	5	1	Blackburn	2	
Martin Keown	6	1	Celestine Babayaro	9	0	Phil Neville	6	0	Charlton	1	
Dennis Bergkamp	7	0	Michael Duberry	8	0	David Beckham	6	0	Chelsea	7	
Nelson Vivas	7	0	Dan Petrescu	7	0	Jaap Stam	5	0	Coventry	2	
Lee Dixon	6	0	Albert Ferrer	6	0	Nicky Butt	2	2	Derby	1	
Freddie Ljungberg	4	0	Graeme Le Saux	4	1	Andy Cole	3	0	Leeds	3	
Giles Grimandi	2	1	Gianluca Vialli	4	1	Jesper Blomqvist	3	0	Leicester	1	
Steve Bould	3	0	Jody Morris	3	0	Teddy Sheringham	3	0	Liverpool	3	
Stephen Hughes	3	0	Perisic Casiraghi	3	0	Denis Irwin	3	0	Man Utd	4	
Ray Parlour	2	1	Marcel Desailly	3	0	Ryan Giggs	2	0	Middlesbrough	2	
Tony Adams	2	0	Ed De Goeij	2	0	Ronny Johnsson	2	0	Newcastle	5	
Remi Garde	2	0	Tore Andre Flo	2	0	Dwight Yorke	2	0	Nottingham Forest	4	
Marc Overmars	2	0	Bernard Lambourde	2	0	Wes Brown	1	0	Sheff Wed	3	
Nikolas Anelka	1	0	Gustavo Poyet	2	0	John Curtis	1	0	Southampton	3	
			Blaine Goldbach	1	0	David May	1	0	Tottenham	5	
			Gianfranco Zola	1	0	Phil Mulryne	1	0	West Ham	2	
Totals	66	7	Totals	82	7	Totals	65	4	Wimbledon	3	
									Total	74	

Wednesday Europe hope

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY may be 11th in the Premiership but the good behaviour of their players and fans may enable them to win a place in Europe next season, writes Glenn Moore.

In previous years an extra European place has gone to representatives of the top three nations in Uefa's Fair Play League, the means by which Aston Villa entered this season's Uefa Cup. Next season it will be decided through domestic Fair Play Leagues, with the highest-placed team not otherwise qualified for Europe being chosen. Manchester United lead the table, followed by

Liverpool, Aston Villa, Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester City.

The Premier League refuses to release the full table but revealed it is judged on and yellow cards, "positive play", "respect towards opponents and officials" and "supporter behaviour".

England are second in Uefa's Fair Play ratings but, due to a change in the selection process, not sure of a place, so there may be only six English clubs in Europe next season - three in the Champions' League and three in the FA Cup winners and fourth and fifth-placed Premiership teams) in the expanded Uefa Cup.

England helped by Gatland's poor selection policy

BEFORE THE latest round of Five Nations matches, the odds were: France 1-8, Wales 9-2, England 4-9 and Ireland 7-4. I thought the Irish price was generous, the Welsh distinctly on the mean side. Nevertheless I determined to have a bet, a silly bet, what the Sun likes to call "a bit of fun" whenever it has done anything particularly reprehensible.

So I invested, as the bookmakers put it, £20 (tax added) in a Wales-Ireland double. I thought I would go down at the first hurdle in Paris but that I might scrape over in Dublin, by which stage of the race, of course, it would be too late.

But the race went quite the other way. Ireland were a smugged copy of those who had beaten Wales - unrecognisable as the outfit who had



ALAN WATKINS

barried France to within a missed penalty of defeat on the opening Saturday of the season.

This is not hindsight on my part, but I thought Warren Gatland, the Irish coach, had made a mistake

when he chose Victor Costello before Eric Miller at No 8. In form, as he is, Miller is one of the best back row forwards in the competition. And though a lad as big and strong as Costello may be able to intimidate lesser mortals, he is not going to cause the slightest concern to the likes of Lawrence Dallaglio and Richard Hill, to say nothing of Tim Rodber and Martin Johnson.

Why, I wonder, does Gatland not restore Reggie Corrigan at loose-head instead of playing Peter Ciohesy out of position? Or play two genuine jumping locks in Malcolm O'Kelly and Jeremy Davidson? Or make the place-kicking cast iron with Simon Mason? Or recognise the most penetrative Irish back around, Darragh O'Mahony of Bedford?

Perhaps these changes would not have been enough to beat England. But there was a 15-minute period at the beginning of the second half when Ireland could have taken a convincing lead with a converted try. However, the backs lacked guile.

Exactly the same could be said of the England backs for long stretches of the match. Even so, Clive Woodward said afterwards that it had been the best England performance under his stewardship; Dallaglio joined in to much the same effect; they were both echoed by assorted reporters; while Philip Matthews, that fine former Irish No 6, gave his opinion that England would have no difficulty in beating France at Twickenham.

They all seem somewhat easily

pleased. In particular, I am less confident than Matthews about the outcome of the French match. France played badly against Ireland though they won. They did not play badly against Wales but they lost. When they come to Twickenham their pride will be formidable.

Though I think it eccentric to play Eddie Ntamack at full-back, in spite of his three tries, and that France must have two better centres than the present combination, they may yet astonish us all in a few weeks.

So may Wales at Wembley in April. Once again the enemy may be what the writer Hugh Kingmill termed "dawnism". But at last Graham Henry, the coach, seems to have put together a plausible front row. Peter Rogers

was born in Llanelli, played most of his rugby in South Africa, and then joined London Irish. But he has played little for their first team this season and little rugby of any description. Choosing him was a risk by Henry which turned out to be justified, though he was substituted by Andrew Lewis in the second half.

With six replacements now allowed, the Welsh coach took the prudent and, as far as I know, unprecedented course of having an entire front row - Lewis, Barry Williams and that old war horse John Davies - on the bench ready to run on, if necessary, for Rogers, that other war horse Garin Jenkins and Ben Evans, who, like the Quinlan brothers, had an excellent game. All of a sudden, Henry is a victim

of what the politician Peter Walker once called the problems of success. He has to decide whether, subject to fitness, to restore Gareth Thomas, Allan Bateman and David Young for the theoretically friendly match against Italy in Treviso which precedes the Wembley encounter with England. To drop Evans, in particular, would be harsh after his Paris performance.

The whole season has been interesting from the start. Now it is fascinating. If England succeed in winning the Grand Slam by beating France and then Wales, they will have proved themselves to be a very good side indeed - a rather better side than I think they now are, despite the satisfaction after the Irish match.

Elkington profits as Monster bites back

GOLF

BY DOUG FERGUSON
in Miami

STEVE ELKINGTON has won 10 times on the PGA Tour, but never quite like this. In a span of two hours, he took three putts on the 18th green on the Blue Monster, kicked in the side of a scoring trailer, watched the back nine from his room at the resort, warmed up for a play-off and then accepted a first-place cheque for \$540,000 (\$341,000) without hitting another shot. The Doral-Ryder Open might not have had its usual array of star names, but it rarely lacks drama. Sunday was no exception.

Despite a bogey on the final hole, Elkington won the Doral in a thrilling finish that he never saw. He was on the practice range preparing to go back out to No 18 for a play-off when the toughest closing hole on the PGA Tour swallowed up Ernie Els and Greg Kraft. "Thank goodness they had to play that hole," said Elkington, who finished at 13-under 275 for a one-stroke victory over Kraft. "It's a very dangerous hole."

It nearly always decides the champion at Doral, and Elkington was well aware of this when he stood over a five-foot putt for par, trying to cap a 63 that he felt certain would be enough to win.

"I wanted to send a message," he said. "I didn't want to see them go 'Oh, he bogeyed the last. That's good.' I didn't want to leave any crumbs out there." But he did, and it was not long before Els and Kraft made a move. Els, trying to win his second straight 72-hole event on tour, scrambled from the sand for one par after another before converting one of only three birdie attempts on the back nine, a 12-footer on No 17 to tie.

Kraft, in the group behind, trying for his first official win on the PGA Tour, caught Elkington with a birdie on the 603-yard 12th, gave one back from the bunker on No 13 and re-joined the lead with a four-foot birdie on 17. Then the fun began.

Els was haunted by pulling everything left at the worst possible time. With just 154 yards to the flag at the last his eight iron landed in the rough near the red hazard line. Needing to get it close to save par and force a play-off, the chip failed to get up the hill and trickled back down to virtually the same position.

Next came Kraft. With a five-iron he caught the ball so fat that it fell a good 20 yards short of the green, but he saved bogey for a 71 and second place by himself.

Justin Rose needs to take a step back according to John Bickerton, who took second place in the Algarve Portuguese Open on Sunday. The 244,000 collected lifted him to eighth on the Order of Merit and 13th in the Ryder Cup points table and brought his season's earnings to more than £100,000.

It was the perfect demonstration of what the Challenge Tour has to offer - Bickerton earned his card for this season by finishing sixth overall on that tour last year. He believes that Rose needs the same experience to end a streak of 15 consecutive missed cuts since he turned professional after his fourth place in the Open last year.

"I feel sorry for Justin," said Bickerton after his Penina play-off loss to Van Phillips, another Challenge Tour graduate. "He's having to deal with a lot of pressure at such a young age. The Challenge Tour would not be a bad thing to experience."

"You get used to travelling around Europe week after week, playing 72-hole tournaments and building up your confidence. Once you've done that then you can build from there."

Sunny times again for Sherwood

SIMON SHERWOOD probably does not deserve another Cheltenham Festival winner. He has enjoyed great success both as a jockey and a trainer, but his time in the spotlight is over.

When Desert Orchid won a Gold Cup he was the man blessed to be at the controls, but it was not a spinning occasion he let go to his head.

These days at least, Sherwood is not a hamper and

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Naps: Wise Gunner (Easter 2.50)
Nls: True Fortune (Easter 3.20)

chambers customer who attends Prestbury Park just for the bubbles. He goes to compete. He goes to win. "I've had five winners at the Cheltenham, two winners and a third, the master of Upplands last year."

Dusty Miller and Duke of Monmouth were the training athletes, animals which com-

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

plemented the other achievements around a saddle, including a victory for Barnbrook Again in the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

There were nine Festival winners in six years as a jockey for Sherwood, but the ones that matter now are the stamping beasts that will charge the tape next week. This hopeful team includes Door To Door, No Forecast, who was second to the much vaunted favourite for the bumper, Golden Alpha, at Newbury recently, and Sunny Bay.

Old Sunny would have been favourite to win a Blue Riband had the evidence been limited to the end of last year. The sparkling grey beat Escartefigue by five lengths, giving him 4th, at Haydock in November, which now transpires to be golden form. It is also forgotten form.

A run seems more pertinent as it runs at Leopardstown, where Sunny Bay was pulled up.

It seems he now has to do the same with his socks. "He had that hip in Ireland and everyone seemed to forget about him," Sherwood says. "He had a bit of a sore throat when he came back but I think the reason was the [sticky] ground. I don't think he wants dead ground and now he's a relatively fresh horse."

"He's intended to go for both this and Liverpool and he is realistically a Grand National type even when he may be handicapped worse for that race. He's got one bit of work and one more bit of school and hopefully he'll be at Cheltenham."

"He wins first time out every season so that's the idea about freshening him up for this. He's not running at the Festival for the sake of it. He's not a social runner."

Direct Route may not be a runner at the meeting at all. The one-time favourite for the Queen Mother Champion Chase has had his preparation punctured at the lodgings of his



Weather Wise makes the running in the seller at Fontwell yesterday but is eventually beaten by The Minder (2nd right) Robert Hollam

trainer, Howard Johnson (not that hotelier, not the same connection).

Direct Route burst a blood vessel when disappointing behind Teton Mill at Ascot last time and the recuperation is proving somewhat drawn out. Johnson is serious enough to talk about ruling his eight-year-old out, though a definite bul-

letin will come only at the end of the week. "It's completely flooded out here and he hasn't been out of his box," the trainer said yesterday. "To be honest, I haven't a clue what to do with him."

The same analysis could apply to Challenger Du Luc, who is either enigmatic or a complete dog depending on

whether you have backed him at the right time. The occasional warrior is one of four Martin Pipe entries in the Imperial Cup at Sandown on Saturday, which may see his return over hurdles.

This is a contest which Pipe won 12 months ago with Blowing Wind, who went on to secure a £50,000 bonus by also col-

lecting the County Hurdle the following week.

Challenger Du Luc is also entered in the Coral Cup and the Midway of Flete and may also be seen flipping burgers in a towable van such as Pipe's apparent eagerness to get the best return out of him. Others who may attempt to replicate a Pipe Sandown and Cheltenham

double are Dr Jazz and Heros Fatal.

Dr Jazz, who is in the County Hurdle, was runner-up to the highly rated novice The Fly at Newbury on his latest start, while Heros Fatal, a consideration for both the Coral Cup and County Hurdle, arrives for the Festival armed with a victory at Lingfield last month.

EXETER

2.20 Little Films
3.50 Wise Gunner (nb)
4.50 Kellys Conquest (nap)
5.20 True Fortune

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places).
Right-hand, undulating course. Shift test of stamina. Run-in of 250 yards.
Course in 5th SW of Exeter on the A30. Jumps: 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1609, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1641, 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1731, 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871

THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 9 March 1999

Weather looks set fair for Thunder

Three years ago Super League rugby saw a false dawn in Paris but the latest new team show promise. By Dave Hadfield

AS GATESHEAD THUNDER defied the great elemental forces of the North-east - rain, wind and Newcastle United - to make an encouraging start to life in Super League on Sunday, minds inevitably drifted back to another night three years ago.

Gateshead are the second franchise to enter the competition. Enthusiasm for the way they seem to have many things right has to be tempered by memories of what happened to the first.

On the face of it, Paris St-Germain made an even better start than the Thunder. They were not merely competitive; they beat Sheffield Eagles 30-24 and did so at the Charley Stadium in front of a crowd which, at more than 17,000, was three times as many as Gateshead attracted to their inaugural fixture. It proved a false dawn, however. Paris won only two more matches that season and, within two years, they were extinct and virtually unremembered, with crowds having slumped to a low of 500.

It sounds like a bad omen for the Thunder, but there should not be too much read into it. The two events do have more in common than locals speaking a strange language and the presence of Keith Hetherington, then a Sheffield and now a Gateshead director. Both involve winning over an alien audience for an unfamiliar sport, but there, Gateshead

hope, the similarities end. There is one immediate difference. Paris's crowds that first night and subsequently were inflated by free tickets and an even more free use of the imagination.

"Everyone at Gateshead paid," said the Thunder's chief executive, Shane Richardson. Anything else would amount to the new club conning itself and, as a genuine attendance, 5,960 represents a decent base to build on.

The deck, after all, was heavily stacked against them, with a combination of live television, foul weather and Alan Shearer and Co strutting their stuff across the city. "All things considered, it was a very encouraging start," Richardson said.

The difference should be that at Gateshead, unlike Paris, a greater proportion of that opening night attendance will be back, despite their new team's 24-14 defeat by Leeds. Unlike Paris, who had deepening contractual problems with their players, Gateshead will get better.

Judging by the way they played in the wet and in their first competitive game, they will provide compelling entertainment when they get a track to run on and the sun on their backs.

Like the Thunder, Paris eventually brought in large numbers of Australian players



Gateshead experiences the razzmatazz of Super League as Captain Thunder leads the cheers against Leeds on Sunday

Ben Duffy

for quite simply, there is a surplus. Dean Bird is the common link between the two, returning from Adelaide to join his second European Super League club, but that is as far as the comparison goes.

The French-based side did not have players of the calibre of Kerrod Walters, Willie Peters or Brett Grogan and, as the season goes on, the difference in quality will become more apparent.

Paris were eventually regarded as cuckoos in the nest of their parent organisation, the Paris St-Germain football club. Gateshead's equivalent relationship with their local council, whose energetic support for a project that puts the town on the national sporting map, is not in doubt. Paris were permanently broke; Gateshead announced their arrival as serious players with one of the biggest club sponsorship deals ever tied up.

The administration in Paris was a mess - and did not get any better when Super League and Maurice Lindsay launched a "rescue" operation. As the picture developed, nobody was really sure who was in charge.

At Gateshead, there is no debate about it: it is the creature of Richardson and Hetherington, who between them have an expertise in the field that underpins the whole dream. There were uplifting nights at the Charley and a longer-term commitment to the idea

might by now have paid dividends. Their fireworks worked on opening night; Gateshead's did not, but that was the only real dampener on the proceedings.

There are, of course, things that need to be worked on. A ground announcer explaining play to newcomers only helps if he gets it right; the club's mascot, Captain Thunder, needs to return to his own planet in some distant galaxy for further training.

But these are minor matters. What really counts is that Gateshead should build on a solid start, make progress towards their declared aim of fielding a British team and be given time to prove their worth to the game.

It all looked feasible on Sunday night. We might have said something similar after Paris's debut three years ago, but some vital lessons about what it takes to thrive in Super League have surely been learned since then.

Britain's leading referee, Russell Smith, has had to pull out of tonight's Varsity match at Richmond because he has flu. Another professional referee, Robert Connolly, takes over for a match in which Cambridge hope to continue their run of six wins over Oxford in their last seven meetings.

Huddersfield's Great Britain scrum-half, Bobbie Goulding, does not have a broken arm as had been feared.

The referees' director, Greg McCallum, warned coaches yesterday that lying on in the tackle, which has crept back into the game this season, will not be tolerated.

Britain's leading referee, Russell Smith, has had to pull out of tonight's Varsity match at Richmond because he has flu. Another professional referee, Robert Connolly, takes over for a match in which Cambridge hope to continue their run of six wins over Oxford in their last seven meetings.

Huddersfield's Great Britain scrum-half, Bobbie Goulding, does not have a broken arm as had been feared.

The referees' director, Greg McCallum, warned coaches yesterday that lying on in the tackle, which has crept back into the game this season, will not be tolerated.

Britain's leading referee, Russell Smith, has had to pull out of tonight's Varsity match at Richmond because he has flu. Another professional referee, Robert Connolly, takes over for a match in which Cambridge hope to continue their run of six wins over Oxford in their last seven meetings.

Huddersfield's Great Britain scrum-half, Bobbie Goulding, does not have a broken arm as had been feared.

The referees' director, Greg McCallum, warned coaches yesterday that lying on in the tackle, which has crept back into the game this season, will not be tolerated.

Britain's leading referee, Russell Smith, has had to pull out of tonight's Varsity match at Richmond because he has flu. Another professional referee, Robert Connolly, takes over for a match in which Cambridge hope to continue their run of six wins over Oxford in their last seven meetings.

Huddersfield's Great Britain scrum-half, Bobbie Goulding, does not have a broken arm as had been feared.

The referees' director, Greg McCallum, warned coaches yesterday that lying on in the tackle, which has crept back into the game this season, will not be tolerated.

Britain's leading referee, Russell Smith, has had to pull out of tonight's Varsity match at Richmond because he has flu. Another professional referee, Robert Connolly, takes over for a match in which Cambridge hope to continue their run of six wins over Oxford in their last seven meetings.

Huddersfield's Great Britain scrum-half, Bobbie Goulding, does not have a broken arm as had been feared.

Britain to fight S Africa cup bid

BY DAVE HADFIELD

GREAT BRITAIN was resisting a rival bid from South Africa to stage the 2000 World Cup when the game's International Federation began its meeting in Sydney today. The millennium tournament was awarded to Britain last year, but the South Africans will try to persuade the Federation to change its plans this week.

That move will be greeted with incredulity by the British representatives at the meeting, who still recall the embarrassment caused to the game by the cancellation of the planned World Nines in Johannesburg last month. Britain also regards any arguments over the World Cup as being too late.

"It's a done deal as far as we are concerned, but South Africa are welcome to make a bid for 2002," said the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe. He will also want to end any doubts over the Tri-Series against Australia and New Zealand this year. The Kiwis have expressed unease about that tournament and Britain could call their bluff by suggesting an Ashes series instead.

The Gateshead prop, Andrew Hick, has become the first player from the new club to be summoned to a disciplinary hearing, over an alleged trip in their inaugural game against Leeds.

The referees' director, Greg McCallum, warned coaches yesterday that lying on in the tackle, which has crept back into the game this season, will not be tolerated.

Britain's leading referee, Russell Smith, has had to pull out of tonight's Varsity match at Richmond because he has flu. Another professional referee, Robert Connolly, takes over for a match in which Cambridge hope to continue their run of six wins over Oxford in their last seven meetings.

Huddersfield's Great Britain scrum-half, Bobbie Goulding, does not have a broken arm as had been feared.

Oxford ensure league status

OXFORD UNIVERSITY warmed up for today's Varsity Match with a 3-1 win against Ipswich. However, Saturday's game did little to grace the official opening of their water-based artificial pitch at Lilley Road - other than to almost certainly ensure their National League survival.

Cambridge, on the other hand, saw their chance of reaching the National League flickering away by drawing with Croxley in the Premier Holidays East Premier.

Indeed, it could have been worse for the Light Blues but for an equalising goal from Roger Wilcock with the last touch of the match. The former Oxford Blue Adam Laird, on whom much of Cambridge's hopes will depend this afternoon in Milton Keynes, scored their opening goal.

In another eventful game in the South, leaders Wimbledon twice came from behind to beat City of Portsmouth, with the equalising and winning goals coming from Rob Stone and

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

David Alford, both scoring within a minute.

Earlier Stuart Avery had scored both Portsmouth's goals. A few minutes into the second half, the umpire, after awarding a penalty stroke, changed the decision into a 16-yard hit, which might have been costly for Wimbledon. With their programme complete they must now hang on for a week to await the result of Fareham's rearranged fixture at High Wycombe on Saturday.

Only a win for Fareham, held to a 1-1 draw at Woking on Saturday, will be enough to give them the title and a place in the national play-offs. With their leading goalscorer, Jim Moseley, who broke his nose last week, Fareham struggled after Tom Miller's opening goal in 24 seconds. Woking's equaliser came from a Mark Robinson penalty corner shot in the 52nd minute.

Samaranch braced for vote

OLYMPIC GAMES

Samaranch. The 78-year-old Spaniard, who has faced calls for his resignation from critics outside the IOC, announced in January that he would put his leadership to a vote of confidence at a special general assembly in Switzerland on 17 to 18 March.

Samaranch has overwhelming support among IOC members for his continuation in office. The confidence motion, however, is not listed on the 10-point agenda for next week's meeting, where the assembly will vote on reform proposals and expulsion of members involved in the Salt Lake City bribery scandal.

IOC members said that the confidence question is still being debated among the general membership and the leadership.

Samaranch has been canvassing the opinions of IOC members and is expected to settle on a formula later this week. Executive board member Jacques Rogge said members are divided into two camps: those who favour a secret ballot and those who prefer a round of applause or show of hands.

"What counts is not the system," he said. "What counts is whether [Samaranch] can have broad support, and I believe he can." Samaranch, elected as IOC president in 1980, has never faced a contested re-election campaign.

THE WELSH giant Derwyn Jones is ready to turn his back on his country to begin a new career - in France. The 5ft 10in Cardiff second row is out of contract at the Arms Park at the end of the season and is being trailed by a number of clubs across the Channel, with Bourgoin the favourites to sign him.

The lock, capped 19 times for Wales, last played against Australia in 1996. He said: "There

RUGBY UNION

has been some interest from clubs in France. It is early days yet, but I am looking at my options and have been with Cardiff a long time. I have to look at what is best for me, but it will be a huge wrench to leave."

"However, with the situation with Cardiff and Welsh Rugby Union this season the club has allowed me to speak to other clubs."

FORM VERDICT

BARNBROUGH BOY has shown enough to think that he is back in form, and off a low mark at his favourite track, he could prove just too strong for Stiles, Shaker and Miller. This is quite open, however, and The Snow Barn and Punters Bar are perfectly plausible winners too.

DARBY STREET has shown enough to think that he is back in form, and off a low mark at his favourite track, he could prove just too strong for Stiles, Shaker and Miller. This is quite open, however, and The Snow Barn and Punters Bar are perfectly plausible winners too.

FORM VERDICT
RIVER DOUGLAS has a bit to find with Newmarket Hay on his form, but that could be misleading once he would have achieved a higher rating at Carlisle for a blunder. He is on the upgrade.

FORM VERDICT
RIVER DOUGLAS has a bit to find with Newmarket Hay on his form, but that could be misleading once he would have achieved a higher rating at Carlisle for a blunder. He is on the upgrade.

FORM VERDICT
RIVER DOUGLAS has a bit to find with Newmarket Hay on his form, but that could be misleading once he would have achieved a higher rating at Carlisle for a blunder. He is on the upgrade.

FORM VERDICT
RIVER DOUGLAS has a bit to find with Newmarket Hay on his form, but that could be misleading once he would have achieved a higher rating at Carlisle for a blunder. He is on the upgrade.

FORM VERDICT
RIVER DOUGLAS has a bit to find with Newmarket Hay on his form, but that could be misleading once he would have achieved a higher rating at Carlisle for a blunder. He is on the upgrade.

FORM VERDICT
RIVER DOUGLAS has a bit to find with Newmarket Hay on his form, but that could be misleading once he would have achieved a higher rating at Carlisle for a blunder. He is on the upgrade.

Spurs attract at 9-2 for FA Cup

SPORTS BETTING

BY JOHN COBB

IT IS a rare occurrence to find Manchester United at odds of 5-1 to win a six-runner race, yet Ladbrokes have the Premiership leaders at that price to win the FA Cup after their failure to dispatch Chelsea at Old Trafford on Sunday. Barnsley, at 40-1, are the only team deemed less likely to lift the Cup.

The extent of United's difficulties is emphasised by their price of 9-4, with Coral, to triumph in Wednesday's replay at Stamford Bridge. The attractive bet there, given how closely matched the two sides are and their unwillingness to give anything away in defence, may be the 80-minute draw at 9-4 with William Hill.

With a semi-final against Arsenal looming for whoever progresses, the other side of the draw looks a more attractive proposition for finding the Cup winners. Newcastle, having found their scoring touch, are as short as 11-4 with Stanley, but they will not face a side as weak as Everton again in the competition and even the 4-1 gen-

erally on offer looks mean. Better to stick with the Cup specialists Tottenham, who must eliminate Barnsley at Oakwell in their postponed sixth-round tie and then Newcastle in the semi-final. Ladbrokes rate them 3-1 chance to triumph at Wembley, so the 9-2 on offer with Stanley looks healthy.

FA CUP 6TH ROUND REPLAY

	C	H	L	S	T
Chelsea	5-4	5-4	11-8	6-4	6-5
Draw	7-4	8-4	2-1	11-5	11-5
New Utd	9-4	7-4	7-4	6-4	15-8

Stanford Bridge, 6.45pm

To win the FA Cup

	C	H	L	S	T
Arsenal	9-4	2-1	2-1	9-4	9-4
Newcastle	4-1	4-1	4-1	11-4	3-1
Chelsea	4-1	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2
Tottenham	7-5	4-1	3-1	9-2	4-1
Man Utd	9-5	3-1	5-1	4-1	4-1
Barnsley	30-1	40-1	40-1	40-1	40-1

C Coral, H Wm Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley T Tot

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

PREMIER LEAGUE

1 Chelsea v West Ham	1
2 Coventry v Blackburn	2
3 Derby v Liverpool	3
4 Everton v Arsenal	4
5 Leicester v Charlton	5
6 Newcastle v Man Utd	6
7 Sheffield v Leeds	7
8 Tottenham v Aston Villa	8
9 Wimbledon v Leeds Forest	9
10 Oxford v Watford	10
11 Southampton v Southampton	11

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

1 Aberdeen v Celtic	1
2 Dundee Utd v Hearts	2
3 Dundee Utd v Hearts	3
4 Dundee Utd v Hearts	4
5 Dundee Utd v Hearts	5
6 Dundee Utd v Hearts	6
7 Dundee Utd v Hearts	7
8 Dundee Utd v Hearts	8
9 Dundee Utd v Hearts	9
10 Dundee Utd v Hearts	10
11 Dundee Utd v Hearts	11
12 Dundee Utd v Hearts	12
13 Dundee Utd v Hearts	13
14 Dundee Utd v Hearts	14
15 Dundee Utd v Hearts	15
16 Dundee Utd v Hearts	16
17 Dundee Utd v Hearts	17
18 Dundee Utd v Hearts	18
19 Dundee Utd v Hearts	19
20 Dundee Utd v Hearts	20
21 Dundee Utd v Hearts	21
22 Dundee Utd v Hearts	22
23 Dundee Utd v Hearts	23
24 Dundee Utd v Hearts	24
25 Dundee Utd v Hearts	25
26 Dundee Utd v Hearts	26
27 Dundee Utd v Hearts	27
28 Dundee Utd v Hearts	28
29 Dundee Utd v Hearts	29
30 Dundee Utd v Hearts	30

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

1 Aberdeen v Celtic	1
2 Dundee Utd v Hearts	2
3 Dundee Utd v Hearts	3
4 Dundee Utd v Hearts	4
5 Dundee Utd v Hearts	5
6 Dundee Utd v Hearts	6
7 Dundee Utd v Hearts	7
8 Dundee Utd v Hearts	8
9 Dundee Utd v Hearts	9
10 Dundee Utd v Hearts	10
11 Dundee Utd v Hearts	11
12 Dundee Utd v Hearts	12
13 Dundee Utd v Hearts	13
14 Dundee Utd v Hearts	14
15 Dundee Utd v Hearts	15
16 Dundee Utd v Hearts	16
17 Dundee Utd v Hearts	17
18 Dundee Utd v Hearts	18
19 Dundee Utd v Hearts	19
20 Dundee Utd v Hearts	20
21 Dundee Utd v Hearts	21
22 Dundee Utd v Hearts	22
23 Dundee Utd v Hearts	23
24 Dundee Utd v Hearts	24
25 Dundee Utd v Hearts	25
26 Dundee Utd v Hearts	26
27 Dundee Utd v Hearts	27
28 Dundee Utd v Hearts	28
29 Dundee Utd v Hearts	29
30 Dundee Utd v Hearts	30

SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

1 Aberdeen v Celtic	1
2 Dundee Utd v Hearts	2
3 Dundee Utd v Hearts	3
4 Dundee Utd v Hearts	4
5 Dundee Utd v Hearts	5
6 Dundee Utd v Hearts	6
7 Dundee Utd v Hearts	7
8 Dundee Utd v Hearts	8
9 Dundee Utd v Hearts	9
10 Dundee Utd v Hearts	10
11 Dundee Utd v Hearts	11
12 Dundee Utd v Hearts	12
13 Dundee Utd v Hearts	13
14 Dundee Utd v Hearts	14
15 Dundee Utd v Hearts	15
16 Dundee Utd v Hearts	16
17 Dundee Utd v Hearts	17
18 Dundee Utd v Hearts	18
19 Dundee Utd v Hearts	19
20 Dundee Utd v Hearts	20
21 Dundee Utd v Hearts	21
22 Dundee Utd v Hearts	22
23 Dundee Utd v Hearts	23
24 Dundee Utd v Hearts	24
25 Dundee Utd v Hearts	25
26 Dundee Utd v Hearts	26
27 Dundee Utd v Hearts	27
28 Dundee Utd v Hearts	28
29 Dundee Utd v Hearts	29
30 Dundee Utd v Hearts	30

SEDGEFIELD

HYPERION

2.00 Just Jake 2.30 Phar Echo 3.00 Castle Clear 3.30 The Snow Barn 4.00 Joe Jagger 4.30 Gus Cunningham 5.00 Calus

INSPECTION: 7.45am

GOING: Soft

Left-hand, undulating course. Easy fences and long run-in.

Course is 1m 5in of town near junction of A689 and A177. Bus service from Stockton station (8m) or Durham station (10m).

ADMISSION: Paddock 10 (0.4p) 12 (0.5p) 15 (0.6p) 20 (0.8p) 25 (1.0p) 30 (1.2p) 35 (1.4p) 40 (1.6p) 45 (1.8p) 50 (2.0p) 55 (2.2p) 60 (2.4p) 65 (2.6p) 70 (2.8p) 75 (3.0p) 80 (3.2p) 85 (3.4p) 90 (3.6p) 95 (3.8p) 100 (4.0p) 105 (4.2p) 110 (4.4p) 115 (4.6p) 120 (4.8p) 125 (5.0p) 130 (5.2p) 135 (5.4p) 140 (5.6p) 145 (5.8p) 150 (6.0p) 155 (6.2p) 160 (6.4p) 165 (6.6p) 170 (6.8p) 175 (7.0p) 180 (7.2p) 185 (7.4p) 190 (7.6p) 195 (7.8p) 200 (8.0p) 205 (8.2p) 210 (8.4p) 215 (8.6p) 220 (8.8p) 225 (9.0p) 230 (9.2p) 235 (9.4p) 240 (9.6p) 245 (9.8p) 250 (10.0p) 255 (10.2p) 260 (10.4p) 265 (10.6p) 270 (10.8p) 275 (11.0p) 280 (11.2p) 285 (11.4p) 290 (11.6p) 295 (11.8p) 300 (12.0p) 305 (12.2p) 310 (12.4p) 315 (12.6p) 320 (12.8p) 325 (13.0p) 330 (13.2p) 335 (13.4p) 340 (13.6p) 345 (13.8p) 350 (14.0p) 355 (14.2p) 360 (14.4p) 365 (14.6p) 370 (14.8p) 375 (15.0p) 380 (15.2p) 385 (15.4p) 390 (15.6p) 395 (15.8p) 400 (16.0p) 405 (16.2p) 410 (16.4p) 415 (16.6p) 420 (16.8p) 425 (17.0p) 430 (17.2p) 435 (17.4p) 440 (17.6p) 445 (17.8p) 450 (18.0p) 455 (18.2p) 460 (18.4p) 465 (18.6p) 470 (18.8p) 475 (19.0p) 480 (19.2p) 485 (19.4p) 490 (19.6p) 495 (19.8p) 500 (20.0p) 505 (20.2p) 510 (20.4p) 515 (20.6p) 520 (20.8p) 525 (21.0p) 530 (21.2p) 535 (21.4p) 540 (21.6p) 545 (21.8p) 550 (22.0p) 555 (22.2p) 560 (22.4p) 565 (22.6p) 570 (22.8p) 575 (23.0p) 580 (23.2p) 585 (23.4p) 590 (23.6p) 595 (23.8p) 600 (24.0p) 605 (24.2p) 610 (24.4p) 615 (24.6p) 620 (24.8p) 625 (25.0p) 630 (25.2p) 635 (25.4p) 640 (25.6p) 645 (25

Britain reaping reward for investment

BRITISH ATHLETICS, bankrupt 18 months ago, is moving towards next year's Sydney Olympics on a growing tide of achievement and investment.

Speaking after the best British performance at the World Indoor Championships since the event began in 1985, Max Jones, performance director for UK Athletics, revealed that the domestic sport will receive increased levels of National Lottery funding of between £18m and £20m for a six-year period finishing after the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

The Lottery Sports Fund has accepted the sport's six-year plan - applicable from October last year - which involves increasing the annual amount of funding for athletes from £2.4m to £3m.

Of that figure, the fund currently given towards living expenses for individual competitors will remain the same, while there is an in-

ATHLETICS

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM
in Maebashi, Japan

crease in the amount to cover UK Athletics costs such as travel, small international meetings, health cover, physiotherapy and warm-weather training.

That total is likely to be supplemented over the next few years by additional funding for training bases within the recently announced National Academy network.

In order to secure this funding, Jones and his colleagues have had to agree performance targets for a range of forthcoming events - for example, seven medals at this summer's outdoor World Championships in Seville, six at the Sydney Olympics, and eight four years later in Athens. The sport's case was greatly enhanced by last season's performances from British athletes, who re-

tained the European Cup and won a record nine European titles in Budapest.

"There was no direct correlation," Jones said. "But I'm sure Budapest did a lot of good in a lot of areas. There were 9.75m British television viewers watching us on the last day. When we came back, the picture had changed for us."

Many media observers, Jones added, had pointed out that last summer's success had come in a European year, and that winning at global level in the 1999 world indoor and outdoor championships would prove much harder. "They were right," Jones said. "But three golds and two bronzes in Maebashi has set us up well for the year ahead, in the same way as our success did in last year's European indoors at Valencia."

He accepted that there was a price to pay for funding that was so target-orientated. "It's pressure," he said. "You are only as good as your last

Games or championships. But I'd rather have pressure than no money. And if the Lottery authorities are going to shove us £3m every year, they should expect to get something back long term." Lottery money now supports Jones and a staff of six other performance directors for specific events or age groups within British athletics.

"We are all free to concentrate on getting the best out of British athletes," he said. "At world level, a difference of one per cent in preparation can make the difference between someone winning gold or coming fourth."

Jones also praised another influential feature of the British success, namely Linford Christie, who has coached Darren Campbell and now Jamie Baulch to major titles in the space of nine months. "It's obvious he's got a gift for coaching almost as good as his gift for running," Jones said. "Most

superstars do nothing else in the sport when they retire because they've got everything they need. I hope that Linford is going to last the course and keep on coaching."

"I would love to use him more within our set-up. It's sometimes a matter of pinning him down although he does sit on the Performance Athletic Services board."

"Linford has been there, done it and got the T-shirt. When you touch greatness like that it does rub off on other athletes."

Ashia Hansen, who added the World Indoor triple jump title to those she had won at last year's European Indoor Championships and Commonwealth Games, was assisted in her preparations for Maebashi by the fact that her coach, Aston Moore, was able to work with her on a full-time basis thanks to Lottery funding. Moore was in Maebashi with Hansen - admittedly after that other,

unofficial patron of the sport, Sir Eddie Keenan, had paid for his air fare.

"When Aston is with me at a competition it means I can relax and concentrate on my performance rather than having to worry about the technical aspects of my jumping," Hansen said. "Having to do all that for yourself is a big pressure."

Jason Gardener, who broke Linford Christie's five-year-old European 60m record in finishing third behind the Americans Maurice Greene and Tim Harden, has also benefited from a Lottery grant which has allowed him to train full-time in his native city of Bath.

"Without that I would not have been able to achieve what I have here," he said. The funding helped Gardener make the transition from promising junior to achieving senior at a time when his career was stuttering. Three years ago he was



Ashia Hansen shows off her triple jump gold Allsport

favourite to take the European indoor 60m title in Stockholm but false started twice in the final. Last season he lost form at the crucial time, failing to qualify for the European Championships, where two other young sprinting talents, Darren

Campbell and Dwain Chambers, made a name for themselves with gold and silver medals respectively.

Now Gardener has put himself back in the frame as Britain looks forward to Seville with justified confidence.

Irvine the maverick lands big knockout

David Tremayne on the Irishman who let his driving do the talking with his first F1 win in Melbourne

HE WAS the enfant terrible of Formula One. The man whose debut, at Suzuka in 1993, passed into legend afterwards following a punch-up with the late Ayrton Senna. Two races later, at the start of the troubled 1994 season, he was banned for three races after triggering a four-car accident in the Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos.

But on Sunday Edmund Irvine, the 33-year-old from Bangor, earned the respect of his peers with a commanding and polished first grand prix victory.

Ever since he joined Ferrari at the start of the 1996 season, as partner to Michael Schumacher, Irvine has played the pragmatist. He knows that he lacks his illustrious partner's sheer pace and panache, and he has made no bones about being prepared to ride shotgun for him whenever the occasion has demanded. Many of his fellow drivers, some of them doubtless jealous of his Ferrari drive and the significant remuneration it commands, have written him off as a journeyman who lacks ambition, and it has pleased Irvine to let them think what they want. Insouciance, after all, has long been his trademark.

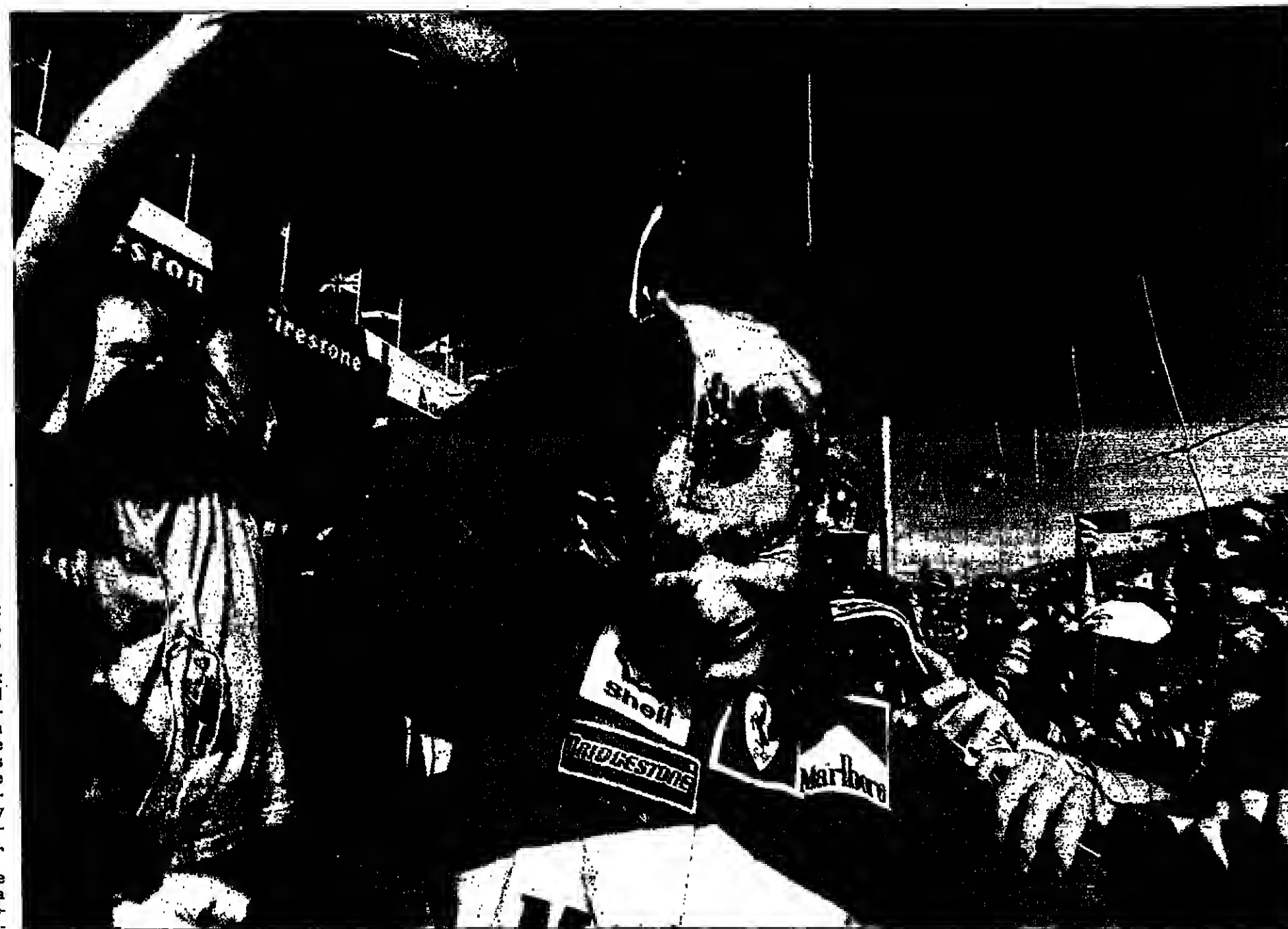
It was what got him into hot

water with Senna in that Japanese Grand Prix six years ago and thrust him into the spotlight. In difficult conditions, Irvine was fighting for fifth place with Damon Hill when Senna came up to lap him. But when Irvine felt Senna was holding him up, he had no qualms about re-passing him.

Eventually Senna overtook for good, but he was well stoked up as he strode down to the Jordan office afterwards. Senna demanded to know how Irvine dared to race when he was being lapped, and what he thought he was doing, whereupon Irvine lit his fuse by informing him that he had repassed him because he, Senna, wasn't driving fast enough.

Irvine was sitting on the table at the time, drawing in a manner that made his disrespect for Senna all too evident, and the deliberate provocation proved too much for the Brazilian, who swung a punch. As Senna was hustled away, the Ulsterman lost no time communicating to the world that he couldn't care less. "It wasn't even a good punch," he said.

When he was summoned to Paris in the aftermath of the Brazilian incident which sent Jos Verstappen's Benetton bar-



Champagne moment: Ferrari's Eddie Irvine soaks up Formula One success for the first time in the Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne on Sunday Allsport

rel-rolling over his Jordan, the same take-it-or-leave-it attitude helped Irvine to a three-race ban instead of the one-race exclusion that had initially been levied, but secretly Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One impresario, liked the maverick's style.

It is what has made Irvine so frequently misunderstood. He lives life on his own terms, and

does not care if others cannot cope with it. In an era of political correctness, he has a commendable penchant for straight talking. Shortly before he joined Ferrari, he told a press conference in front of an Italian press famed for making life hell for Ferrari drivers that he wasn't bothered what any journalist wrote about him, be-

cause he had never met a journalist who knew anything about motor racing. Those same writers who had instantly begun sharpening their pens that day were among the first to offer congratulations on Sunday.

Eighty-two races into the Formula One career which his father Ed's love of cars had initially inspired, Irvine kept

things in the family as he was embraced in parc ferme by his sister Sonia, who also works for Ferrari.

"Right from Friday I was saying how good the car felt, although I couldn't understand why it was slow," Irvine said. "On Saturday again it felt good even though we weren't quick, and today it felt good, just a lit-

tle bit unstable, the way it changed direction being a bit sharp. But actually the fundamental balance was fantastic. This is the best car I have ever driven, to be sure."

Like its driver, good enough to pick up the pieces for Ferrari just as McLaren seemed poised to deliver a hammer blow to the Italian team's hopes

of a good start to its world championship campaign. Even if he ever wins another race Irvine will savour this one. And so will Ed and his wife, Kathleen, who so often follow their outspoken son around the world but this time watched with pride from their home near Bangor as he finally delivered the goods in style.

South Africa fear Germans' Cup bid

SOUTH AFRICA fear Germany are likely to beat them and England in the race to host the 2006 World Cup finals unless the African countries cut their prospective candidates down from five to one.

The chairman of the South Africa World Cup bid committee, Irvin Khoza, believes Germany will definitely secure the backing of the majority of available votes in Europe. He added that South Africa are not even guaranteed the four African votes because Egypt, Ghana, Morocco and Nigeria also want to stage the finals. Africa has

FOOTBALL

never hosted the event, and the Fifa president, Sepp Blatter, believes the continent deserves a chance if it meets stringent requirements.

South Africa have also rejected a plea from the German Interior Minister, Otto Schily, to withdraw from the 2006 race in return for German support in a 2010 bid. "Europe wants to determine when they are ready and also when we are ready. They are not entitled to decide when we are ready," said the South Africa bid chief executive,

Danny Jordaan. He held talks in Nigeria and Ghana at the weekend, hoping to persuade the countries to withdraw.

Morocco, unsuccessful bidders for the 1994 and 1998 finals, are considered the biggest rival to South Africa, while England and Brazil complete the line-up seeking to host the 2006 finals. The winning bid will be announced in a year's time.

Pierluigi Casiraghi, the Chelsea £5.4m striker who injured a knee in November, does not expect to be fit for the start of next season but hopes to play again before the end of the

year. Still on crutches, he said: "I am a little bit better. I'm working hard to come back and play, but it's very difficult because the injury was very bad. Every morning and every afternoon I am working."

Referees in the Football League will abandon the innovation which saw them wearing unusual coloured shirts such as purple or yellow and revert to black kit next season.

Leeds United have been accused of "robbery" by Soccer Australia after signing teenager Jamie McMaster, whose parents emigrated

from Scotland in the late 1980s.

The Soccer Australia National Youth Coach, Les Scheinberg, said: "It's a bloody disgrace. These English clubs are like robbers, stealing our best young players, then telling them the only way they will be signed is if they turn their back on Australia and play for England, Scotland or whoever."

Rugby's 10-yard advancement rule to punish dissent could be adopted by Fifa within two years after a successful pilot scheme in Jersey.

Zemun players attack referee after red card

YUGOSLAVIA

PAUL ALCOCK, the referee showed to the ground by Paolo Di Canio earlier this season, got off lightly compared to Dragan Trifunovic, who took charge of this weekend's Yugoslav First Division match between Red Star Belgrade and their city rivals, Zemun.

The match was abandoned early in the second half after Trifunovic was attacked by Zemun players. The referee had just sent off a Zemun player, Zoran Mijalkovic, when he was set upon by the miscreant's team-mates.

Surrounded by Zemun players aiming punches at him, Trifunovic called off the game and ran for cover. Red Star were leading 2-1 at the time and have subsequently been awarded a 3-0 win.

The perpetrators are expected to be punished today by the Yugoslav Football Federation, which is also planning for this month's high-profile European Championship qualifier against Yugoslavia's neighbours and former war-time enemies, Croatia.



AROUND THE WORLD
EDITED BY
RUPERT METCALF

The fixture in Belgrade on 27 March will be the first football match between the two national sides since Croatia gained independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, although Partizan Belgrade did play Croatia Zagreb in a European Cup tie two years ago.

Away fans will be banned from both Euro 2000 qualifiers. Only a small delegation of officials and media will be travelling with the Croatian team to Belgrade.

"We decided to do everything we could to eliminate all tensions off the pitch," Branko Bulatovic, the Yugoslav Football Federation's general secretary, said.

SPAIN

JOHN TOSHACK was celebrating the first win of his second spell as Real Madrid's coach after Raul's last-minute goal earned a 3-2 success over Real Zaragoza on Sunday - but the Welshman was not so happy yesterday.

The news from the treatment room at the Bernabeu stadium was not good. The Brazilian striker Savio, who had to go off after half an hour of the Zaragoza game, has torn a thigh muscle and will be out of action for three weeks.

Savio will miss next week's second leg of the European Cup quarter-final against Dynamo Kiev. After a 1-1 draw in Madrid last week, Real have to score at least once in Ukraine if they are to progress.

Predrag Mijatovic, who scored the holders' goal against Dynamo last week, is also doubtful for the return with a knee injury. To add to Toshack's worries, the experienced defender Fernando Hierro and Manuel Sanchis both missed Sunday's game due to niggling injuries.

Amoruso wins battle with Rangers' fans

SERGIO PORRINI reckons his fellow Italian defender Lorenzo Amoruso's stunning recent form stems from his desire to prove wrong his critics among the Rangers fans. Earlier this season, whenever Amoruso opted to shoot from distance, the Ibrox faithful behind the goal would first take cover then offer the Rangers skipper a hostile verdict on his efforts.

It reached the stage in early November that Amoruso was threatening to quit the club, such was his concern, but the

Rangers manager, Dick Advocaat, ignored the advice both of his team's supporters and the media and retained Amoruso as captain.

Rangers were being held 1-1 by an impressive Falkirk in the Scottish Cup at Ibrox on Sunday when Amoruso strode forward with purpose, set his sights and let fly from fully 35 yards for a stunning winning goal.

Porcini said: "There was a time when Lorenzo took a lot of criticism and I felt very sorry for him because some of it was per-

sonal and very hurtful. He wanted to do his best for Rangers after missing much of the previous season through injury, so when he was jeered at Ibrox it was a terrible time for him."

"Lorenzo really wanted to be a success and I can tell you I know how much it means to him to be Rangers captain. He took the abuse, although it hurt, because he felt the fans were entitled to their opinion."

"In the last three months or so he has produced some magnificent performances for us

and shown people what he can do. He is a winner - and wants to win for the fans."

Amoruso has now vowed to stay, stressing "I don't think it is a problem now" when asked about a future which at last looks bright.

Rangers have now gone 15 matches unbeaten, with Sunday's victory an eighth successive win. They have already lifted the Scottish League Cup and are primed for a rare domestic treble with the prospect of Hampden Park launching its

new era with an Old Firm Scottish Cup final.

In contrast, with Hibernian having already virtually secured the First Division title, Falkirk now have little to play for, a fact which infuriates their manager Alex Totten, a firm advocate of a 16-team top flight.

Totten said: "For the sake of Scottish football that's the road we should go down, more teams in the Premier League to fall in line with the rest of Europe, where it's the norm."

SPORT

TOP TEAMS GET TOUGH P21 • HOPEFUL DAYS OF THUNDER P23

Cricket: Australia inflict sixth successive defeat as Lara's team are dismissed for a record 51

Lowest of the low for W Indies

BY TONY COZIER
in Port of Spain, TrinidadAustralia 268 & 261
West Indies 167 & 51
Australia win by 312 runs

AUSTRALIA administered yet another crushing blow to the already fractured spirit of West Indies cricket here yesterday, sweeping to victory by 312 runs in the first Test.

They brushed aside the feeble West Indies second innings in an hour and three quarters for 51, their lowest total in their long and distinguished Test history, inflicting the sixth successive defeat on their once proud, but now broken, opponents.

It was the West Indies' sixth successive loss, following the 5-0 drubbing in South Africa in the series that ended six weeks ago that undermined their re-

LOWEST WEST INDIES TEST SCORES

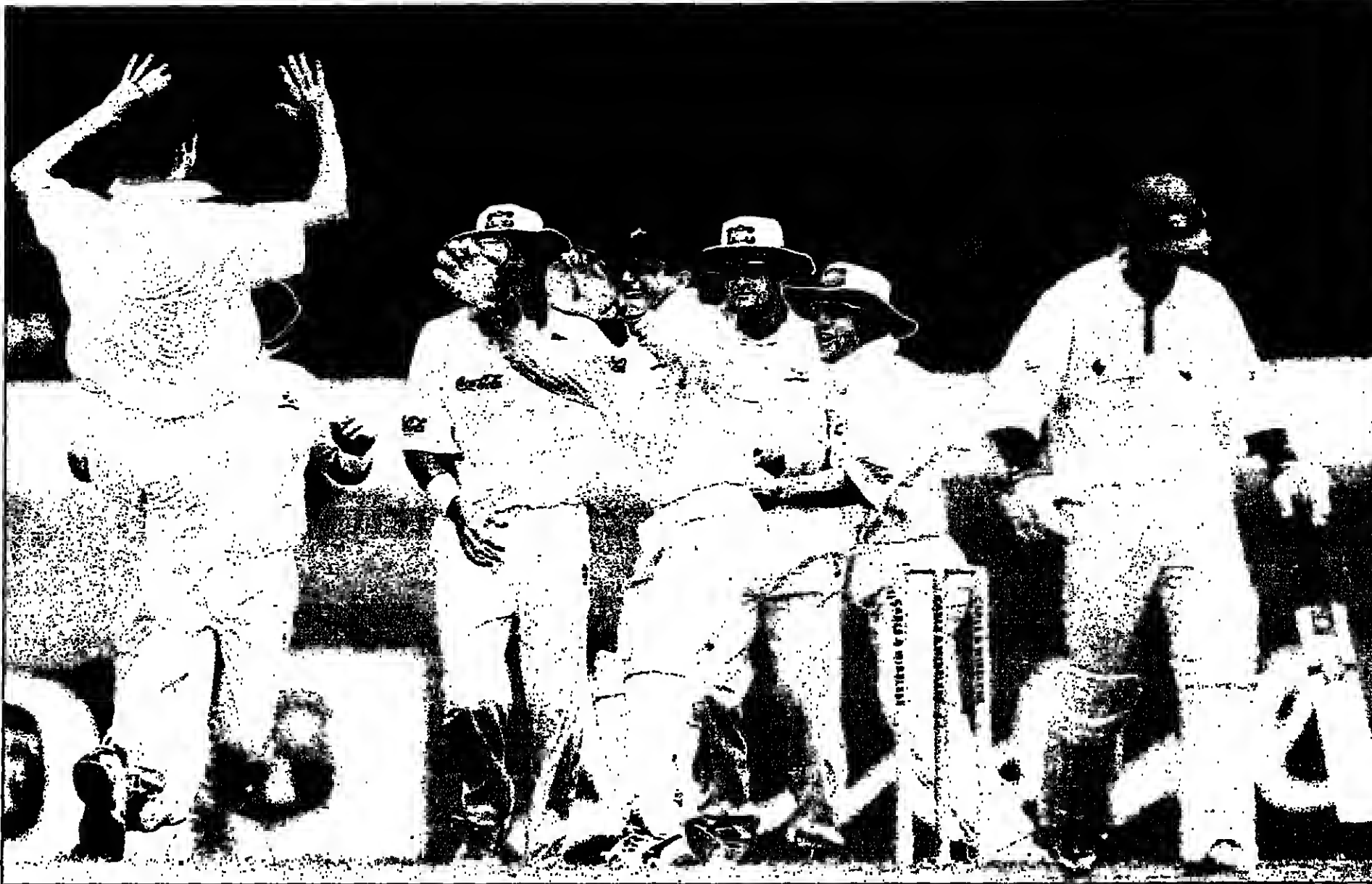
51 v Australia	Trinidad 1999
53 v Pakistan	Faisalabad 1986-87
76 v Pakistan	Dacca 1958-59
77 v N Zealand	Auckland 1955-56
78 v Australia	Sydney 1951-52
86 v England	The Oval 1957
89 v England	The Oval 1957
90 v Australia	Sydney 1930-31
91 v England	Edgbaston 1963
97 v England	Lord's 1933
99 v Australia	Melbourne 1930-31

solve for the powerful, uncompromising Australians, who are acknowledged as the best in the world, ahead of South Africa. It was the first Test for Australia under their new captain Steve Waugh, who has taken over from Mark Taylor.

On the same ground where the West Indies had routed England for 46 for a famous victory five years ago, the West Indies managed to hold out for only the same 19.1 meagre overs their opponents did then. Nine of the 10 wickets tumbled to the probing pace of Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie in 11.4 overs once opener Sherwin Campbell edged Gillespie for a low catch to Mark Waugh at second slip.

The previous lowest total recorded by the West Indies was 53 recorded by the West Indies against Pakistan in Faisalabad in 1986.

The frailty of the West Indies batting, and spirit, was further emphasised by their first innings collapse of the last seven wickets for 18 in 12.1 overs.



Sherwin Campbell, the West Indies' opening batsmen, departs after being bowled for a duck by Australia's Jason Gillespie at Port of Spain yesterday

Allsport

Captain Brian Lara, manager Clive Lloyd and coach Malcolm Marshall, all berated by the West Indies Cricket Board for their "lack of leadership" that contributed to the South African debacle, faced the press afterwards. All insisted that there was still hope of a revival in the remaining three Tests but the assertion had a hollow ring to it. The second Test is only five days away at Sabina Park in Jamaica.

Lara, who was appointed captain for only the first two of the four Tests in the series said: "Our batting is struggling at the moment. We, as a team, need to look at that immediately and see how we can get out of it."

Lara top-scored with 62 in the first innings but fell second ball for three yesterday. Only wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs reached double figures, scoring 19, but he was responsible for

the suicidal run out of Merv Dillon. The next highest was Curtly Ambrose with six. "Getting 50s and 60s is not enough," Lara said. "I need to get 100s, especially with so many inexperienced players in the team."

Australia, 227 for 7 at the start, stretched their lead to 362 before they were all out for 261 half an hour into the day.

It took McGrath and Gillespie half-way through the eighth over before they could initiate the rout. After that, there were interrupted only by two short breaks for rain. Had it not been for four byes from a McGrath bounce that sailed over wicketkeeper Ian Healy's head and two sets of overthrows by Greg Blewett that reached the boundary, the West Indies would not have passed England's low of 46 on the same ground in 1994.

The left-hander Jimmy Adams, a shadow of the batsman who averaged in the 70s only four years ago, was lbw to

McGrath on the back foot and, at the same score, the new, uncertain opener Suruj Ragoonath fell by the same route to Gillespie.

Light rain and lunch came as a temporary relief for the West Indies and, thanks to the extras, the overthrows and a couple of boundaries by Jacobs, the total mounted to 31 on resumption before Roland Holder, hindered by a sprained ankle, provided Mark Waugh with his third slip catch, off McGrath.

McGrath broke the sequence of wickets by claiming Ambrose and Jacobs with identical lbw decisions, of which there were 15 in the match, Dillon's run out separating them.

By now, the only noise for the usually boisterous ground was coming from the few dozen young Australians, waving their flags, singing their songs and consuming quantities of beer.

The victory was completed when fast bowler Pedro Collins swung wildly at the first ball of Gillespie's tenth over and had his off-stump plucked from behind them.

It was a fine way for Steve Waugh to begin his spell as captain following the retirement of Taylor. "I'm pretty pleased. The bowling was fantastic," Waugh said. He felt Australia's first innings of 269 laid the foundation for what became an easy and famous victory.

"I thought it was a great team effort but the first day really set it up for us nicely."

Yesterday had begun well for the West Indies.

Courtney Walsh took his Test match haul to 404 with the wickets of Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill, but the touring team hit back immediately, ripping through the brittle West Indies' top-order.

The Nottingham Forest manager, Ron Atkinson, has given up his pursuit of Aston Villa's stressed-out striker Stan Collymore. It follows Collymore's decision to reject a return to the City Ground in a cash-plus-player swap deal involving Steve Stone.

Atkinson, who also tabled a £2m bid for the troubled star a few weeks ago, admitted: "I would say now that there is no chance of bringing Stan in. It looks dead in the water."

PORT OF SPAIN SCOREBOARD

Fourth day Australia won the Test

AUSTRALIA - First innings 268 (G.S. Blewett 55; C.E.L. Ambrose 3-35)

WEST INDIES - First innings 167 (B.C. Lara 62; D.R.E. Joseph 50; G.D. McGrath 3-50; S.C.G. MacGill 3-41)

AUSTRALIA - Second innings 261 (G.S. Blewett 55; C.E.L. Ambrose 3-35)

WEST INDIES - Second innings 51 (S.K. Warne 3-25; J.N. Gillespie 3-22; S.C.G. MacGill 3-22; G.D. McGrath 3-22; S.C.G. MacGill 3-22)

Extras (batsmen 1, bowlers 1, non-batsmen 1, total 3)

Fall of innings: 1-18 (12.1 overs), 2-18 (12.1 overs), 3-18 (12.1 overs), 4-18 (12.1 overs), 5-18 (12.1 overs), 6-18 (12.1 overs), 7-18 (12.1 overs), 8-18 (12.1 overs), 9-18 (12.1 overs), 10-18 (12.1 overs), 11-18 (12.1 overs), 12-18 (12.1 overs), 13-18 (12.1 overs), 14-18 (12.1 overs), 15-18 (12.1 overs), 16-18 (12.1 overs), 17-18 (12.1 overs), 18-18 (12.1 overs), 19-18 (12.1 overs), 20-18 (12.1 overs), 21-18 (12.1 overs), 22-18 (12.1 overs), 23-18 (12.1 overs), 24-18 (12.1 overs), 25-18 (12.1 overs), 26-18 (12.1 overs), 27-18 (12.1 overs), 28-18 (12.1 overs), 29-18 (12.1 overs), 30-18 (12.1 overs)

Man of the match: G.D. McGrath (Australia)

Umpires: E. Nicholas, P. Willey

Serena, shows her worth

TENNIS

SERENA WILLIAMS, who won her first title last week in Paris, continued her winning ways on Sunday by upsetting the second-seeded Lindsay Davenport 6-4, 6-2 in the second round of the Evert Cup. The 21st-ranked Williams believes she is on the move up the ranking ladder and is brimming with confidence.

"I definitely see myself in the top 10, but right now, I'm not looking at that," Williams said. "I'm just trying to play every match to do the best I can."

Davenport, who reigned as the world No 1 for 17 weeks from last October, is suffering with a respiratory infection. The Evert Cup champion in 1997, Davenport is taking a second course of antibiotics to clear congestion in her lungs.

The match started with Davenport having two chances to break Williams' serve in the first game and one chance in the third game of the first set. Failing to take advantage, Davenport was never able to create another opportunity to challenge Williams. It was the second time in the three matches they have played each other that Williams has emerged victorious. "I thought probably it was more me than more her," Davenport said. "She definitely took advantage of a good day to beat a top player. I just never felt all that great about my game. I wasn't ready to play my best tennis when I had to."

By the second set, Davenport was having difficulty controlling her shots, with numerous forehands flying well beyond the court boundaries.

Williams had 10 chances to break Davenport's serve in the 65-minute match and was successful on three occasions - the final game of the first set and the second and eighth games of the second set.

The fifth-seeded Steffi Graf faced little resistance, beating Kvetoslava Hrdlikova, of the Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-2. The former world No 1 announced that she will compete in next month's Hamburg tournament for the first time for five years. Graf won the event five successive times from 1997.

The American Jan-Michael Gambill defeated Australia's Lleyton Hewitt 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 on Sunday to win his first ATP Tour title, the Franklin Templeton Classic in Scottsdale, Arizona.

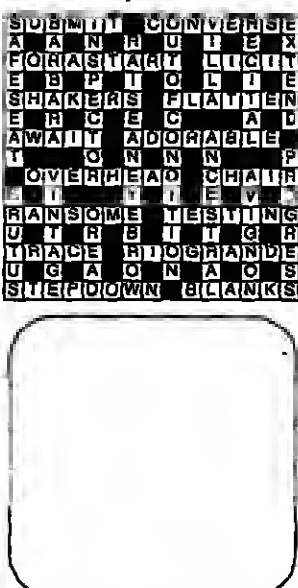
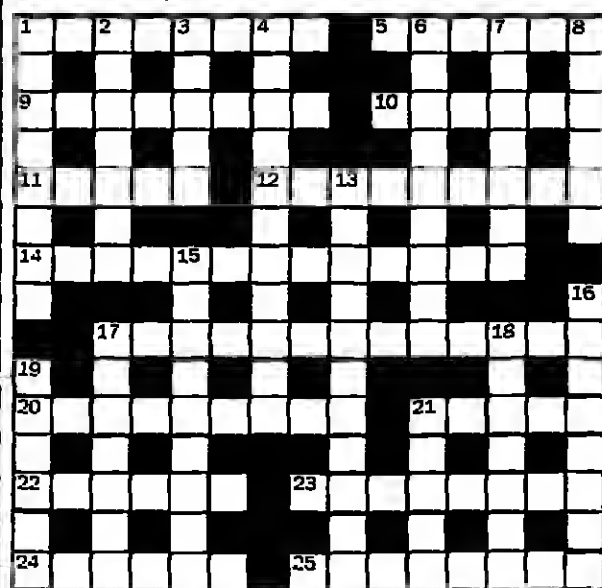
Photograph, page 25

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3865 Tuesday 9 March

By Aisred

Monday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- See terms merged in another academic session (8)
 - Go back with Heather giving nasty looks? (6)
 - Succeed in getting a woman who is very accommodating (6)
 - Feeble type adopts the French religious head-dress (6)
 - Stockpile found in house on a road (5)
 - Irish leader is a cheat, worried about nothing (9)
 - Coming to an end, crescent could be showing superiority (13)
 - William, yours truly and a third party expressing disbelief (4,2,7)
 - Continued to become

- DOWN**
- Personal loathing of the false possibly (4,4)
 - State of person one's not possibly held (7)
 - Betrayed, but holding one to be sound (5)
 - Taking in heat, feverish echinoderm requires time (11)

- Sing loads giving noted performance (9)
- Popular stage of development to be going together (2,5)
- Poet leaves without finishing article (6)
- Unusual building material finishes heterogeneous collection (4,3,4)
- Toils hard on river being game (9)
- Royal works out cost of engaging bridge player and his partner (8)
- Can beat thin material (7)
- Resigned sigh at report of straw house (5,2)
- Having knowledge of gold one's in rich surroundings (2,4)
- Second vessel becomes a drain (5)

Harkness set for Benfica move

STEVE HARKNESS is on his way out of Liverpool in a move to Graeme Souness's Benfica. Harkness, one of Anfield's longest-serving players, is talking to the Portuguese club about a £750,000 transfer and his move could be the first of many as manager Gerard Houllier starts to reshape his Anfield squad.

Souness met with Harkness and Liverpool at the weekend and the deal will go through once Benfica prove they have the money. Liverpool want the cash up front. Harkness will sign today once Benfica collect the money from Charlton for the sale of Martin Fringe.

Harkness could join Benfica

FOOTBALL
BY ALAN NIXON

in time to help their final push for the Portuguese title and a place in the Champions' League next season. Signed from Carlisle almost a decade ago, Harkness has seen his first-team place put in jeopardy with the arrival of Rigobert Song.

Houllier wants to raise funds and make way for fresh faces. He has £15m to spend at Liverpool plus money from the sales of players he does not want as he breaks up Roy Evans' squad. Harkness will be followed out by Oyvind Leonhardsen and Bjorn Tore

Kvarme, goalkeeper Brad Friedel, Danny Murphy and Sean Dundee. Even David James and Phil Babb will be vulnerable if Houllier finds the right replacements in his overhaul. Karl-Heinz Riedle is leaving at the end of his contract, with Liverpool lining up Dutchman Erich Meijer on a free transfer from Bayer Leverkusen as his replacement.

The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, has confirmed an interest in West Bromwich Albion striker Lee Hughes. Robson watched the 31-goal striker against Oxford on Saturday, but Hughes suffered a shoulder injury early in the game and faces a three-

week lay-off. Robson said: "We have monitored Hughes, but we have monitored a lot of other players."

The Nottingham Forest manager, Ron Atkinson, has given up his pursuit of Aston Villa's stressed-out striker Stan Collymore. It follows Collymore's decision to reject a return to the City Ground in a cash-plus-player swap deal involving Steve Stone.

Atkinson, who also tabled a £2m bid for the troubled star a few weeks ago, admitted: "I would say now that there is no chance of bringing Stan in. It looks dead in the water."

Wembley will host an FA Cup semi-final between Arse-

nal and Chelsea if Gianluca Vialli's side overcome Manchester United in tomorrow's quarter-final replay. The game would be on Monday 12 April, kicking off at 7.45pm.

Chelsea could be involved in Cup-Winners' Cup action on the previous Thursday and Wembley is unavailable on Sunday 11 April due to the Wales v England Five Nations match. The semi-final will be switched to Villa Park on the Sunday (12.30pm start) if United win the replay.

Newcastle will travel to Old Trafford to face the winners of the Barnsley v Tottenham quarter-final on Sunday 11 (kick-off 2pm or 3pm).

Bid for Wembley, page 16

Farry vows to fight dismissal

JIM FARRY was sacked yesterday from his job as the Scottish Football Association's chief executive for his negligence in processing the transfer of Jorge Cadete, which obliged the governing body to pay compensation to Celtic last week. Farry was barred from a meeting of the SFA Council at Hampden Park, in Glasgow, at which the fate of the man who has run Scottish football for the past nine years was decided.

The move follows an independent commission ruling in

favour of Celtic last week after the Parkhead club protested at the delay in registering Cadete. The Portuguese forward missed vital matches towards the end of the 1995-96 season sparking a bitter three-year dispute. Yesterday's decision will delight Celtic's managing director, Fergus McCann, who had demanded Farry be sacked.

Farry issued a short statement, saying: "I will now be forced to seek legal advice. I can make no comment beyond that."

requested to attend the Council meeting, but received no answer.

Celtic last night released a short statement that read: "No one likes to see anyone lose their job. However, in this circumstance it was inevitable due to the substantial evidence of Mr Farry's behaviour and attitude."

The SFA president, Jack McGinn, who has temporarily taken on Farry's duties, revealed that no vote had been taken yesterday. There was a discussion about Farry's position following a recommendation

from the emergency committee last week. He said there was a procedure in place where the Council could have overturned the emergency committee's decision if there had been a two-thirds majority but there was no need to put that procedure in place this afternoon.

Farry was told on Friday evening that he had been dismissed when he received a letter from the SFA, who issued a statement saying that he had been dismissed for gross misconduct.



Farry: Gross misconduct

الجزيرة 1525

THE INDEPENDENT

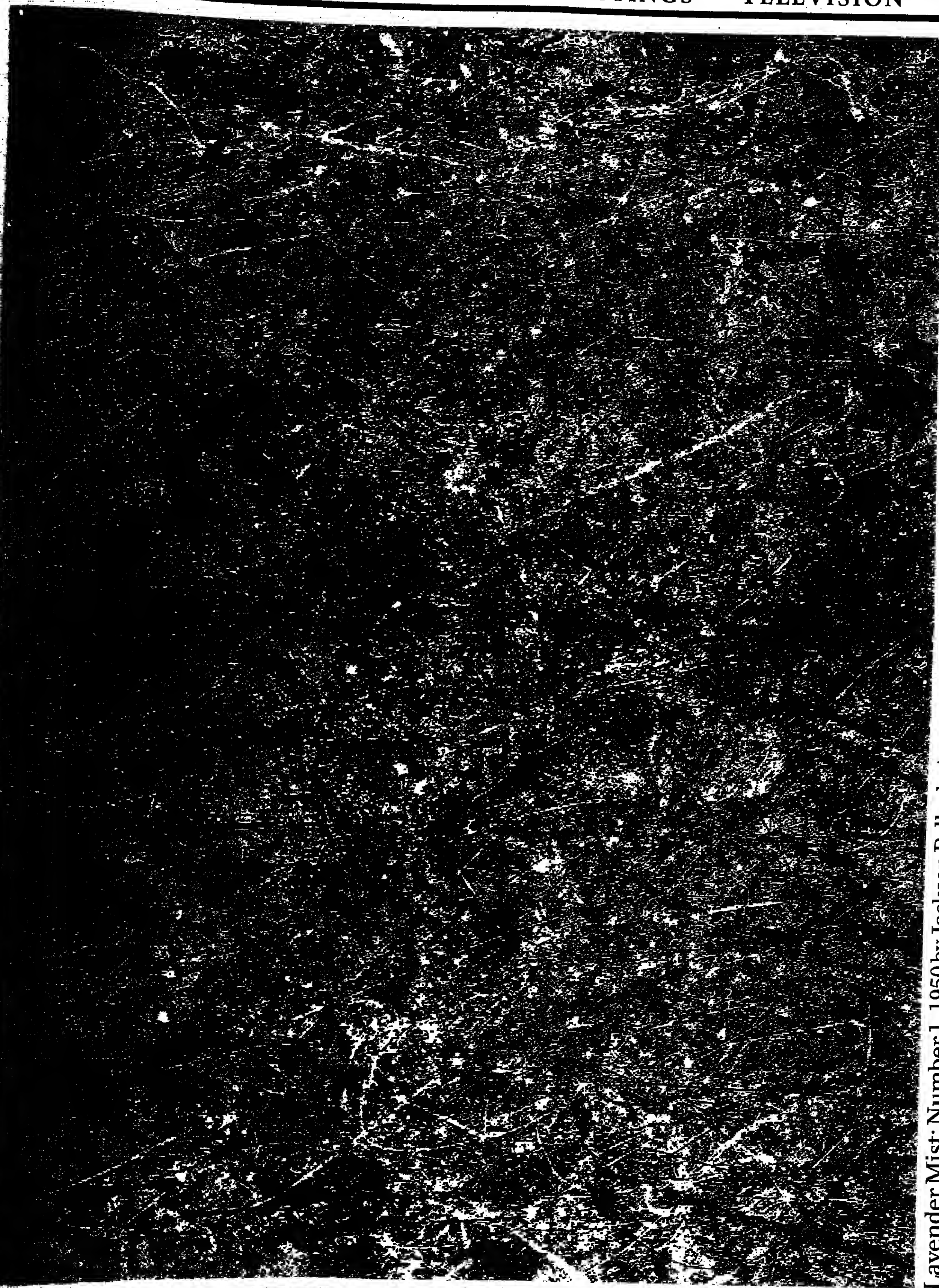
9 March 1999

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Serena
shows
her
worth

move



Lavender Mist: Number 1, 1950 by Jackson Pollock. Apocalyptic wallpaper or the defining painting of the century? See page 10

INSIDE	Letters	2	Features	8	Health	11	Radio	17
	Leaders and comment	3-5	Arts	9	Media	12-14	Satellite TV	17
	Obituaries	6-7	Visual Arts	10	Listings	15-16	Today's TV	18
								WITH

MEDIA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

US is a bad model

Sir: As a visiting American, I was disappointed that Tony Blair advocates an "American model" for economic progress. I hope Western Europe can learn from our mistakes, rather than imitate them.

In the early 1970s, it took one middle-class American salary to support a couple in middle-class American style. Now it takes two. It is now easier for a couple to find the necessary two (or three!) jobs than in 1992. This is certainly an improvement. But calling it an "economic boom" and being satisfied is a product of America's notoriously short memory.

One of the ways we did it to ourselves is with free trade, which is derived from a conservative notion of Utopia in which the average American makes as much as the average Mexican.

When the US is in a recession and elections are coming up, it is necessary to abandon the purity of economic doctrine and do something useful. (George Bush forgot that in 1992, and lost the election.) This limits how much damage doctrinaire economists can do - in America, Russians, Koreans, and Indonesians do not vote in American elections. Washington's economists can wreak havoc on helpless victims in foreign countries as ruthlessly as Stalin instituted collective farms.

Unlike most of Washington's victims, Western Europe has the economic strength to resist. I hope you do so.

Free trade is no longer an economic policy in America; it is a religious principle, an end in itself. I regret to say that you cannot expect America to talk sense about economics, any more than you can expect a Christian Scientist to be sensible about medical care.

Good luck in the banana war. I hope Western Europe can set its own course and find ways for technical progress to yield wealth and leisure, not unemployment. RICHARD BRANDSHAFT
Vancouver, Washington, USA

Sir: Keo Livingstone ("The Third Way will drive Europe into a slump", 3 March) claims that the US has "relocated high-skill jobs to Mexico and other areas" and in the next paragraph that "virtually the whole global economy is subordinated to serve US needs".

Clearly this "subordination" should cease forthwith: skilled Mexicans should be returned to subsistence farming and employees of US firms in the UK returned to the dole queue. R. S. MUSGRAVE
Durham

Interfere for nature

Sir: Your article about animals in danger of extinction ("Going before their time", 5 March) rightly focuses the blame on human intervention. But paradoxically the future of many threatened species depends upon our deliberate interference.

At English Nature we are concerned with not just the well-known animals at risk such as the otter, but also their "poor relations": a wide variety of obscure plants and insects which contribute to the wealth of wildlife in our country.

In the UK, one of the most important habitats is lowland heathland, 60 per cent of which has been lost since 1945. Lack of management is the biggest threat to heathland and the plants and animals which depend on it.

Direct management often involves activities not commonly associated with conservation. These include cutting down trees and controlled burning to recreate the traditional landscape, and fencing off land - not to keep people out, but to keep grazing animals in.

The English countryside cannot look after itself. The best hope for wildlife is to recognise this and for us all to do our bit in supporting local conservation activities.

BARBARA YOUNG
(Baroness Young of Old Scone)
Chairman
English Nature
Peterborough



National Orchestra Week No 2: Members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra warm up for their Mad Hatter's Tea Party concert David Rose

Sir: I am a retired British citizen with no connection to the food industry apart from the pleasure of eating.

GM crops will provide the last nail in the coffin of the ecology of this sceptered isle which has been under sustained attack from the chemical companies for years. Inspired by the slogans of cheap food and larger profits we have watched wildlife rapidly disappear under attack from herbicides and pesticides and are in a fair way to producing a sterile land.

When we came to live here on the outskirts of Bromley, Kent, in 1959, bats were commonplace and owls could be heard calling at night; all have gone. The wheeling flocks of peewits in the Vale of Keaton were a joy, as was the song of the skylark; all have gone. House martins, once common, have gone. We used to be awakened by a glorious dawn chorus in the summer, no more. The latest casualties are sparrows and starlings.

Politicians seem to be unaware or lack the moral fibre and guts to stand up and be counted. L. W. J. PHILLIPS
Bromley, Kent

Anti-racist Eltham

Sir: Your story "Lawrence Blunder: 30 Under Guard" (6 March) gave the impression that racist activity is on the increase after publication of the Lawrence report. In particular you quote Lewisham Race Equality Council as saying that "rumours were sweeping the area of further attacks by gangs from the Eltham area".

We in Greenwich (which includes Eltham) are concerned to hear that there are such rumours, especially as we have heard no evidence of such increase in racist activity.

We wonder if such rumours are proliferating because Eltham is now widely believed to be a hot-bed of racism. But 80 Eltham people (most of them white) gave information so sensitive that they

now have to be given police guard. Does that not give the lie to the statement of the police in the early days of the investigation that there was a "wall of silence"?

The effect of the Lawrence report (and if the better response of the Met in the past months) will have been to discourage racists, not to encourage them. It may also discourage them to know that so many of their own supposed "kith and kin" were prepared to assist the police with inquiries.

If people do not understand that racism happens everywhere in British society then the Lawrence family's struggle, and the Macpherson report, will have been in vain. JAMES GORDON
Greenwich Action Committee
Against Racist Attacks
London SE18

Sir: My father did not change his name when he arrived in England in 1947. Many others in his position did; and as a child I remember the feeling that he conveyed that "name-changers" were somehow taking an easy way out.

David Aaronovitch's piece (Comment, 2 March) about low-level pernicious racism and xenophobia, as evidenced by the extent to which immigrants have

felt moved to anglicise their names, was subtle, perceptive and timely, and it squared 100 per cent with my own experience.

So I am saddened at the response of your correspondents (letters, 4, 5 March), which, together with your decision to publish, seems only to confirm David Aaronovitch's view that in this country overt racism is the tip of a much bigger and just as harmful iceberg of less conscious, ill-informed prejudice. SEB SCHMOLLER
Sheffield

Sir: Almost all discussion of race and ethnicity is nonsense. "Every mixed race marriage is building a better Britain", 4 March.

All human beings are "mixed-race", resulting from complex combinations of the genes of all our ancestors, and all human marriages are "mixed-race", involving further combinations of combinations, all the way back to our obscure origins in East Africa thousands of generations ago.

The only proper answer to questions about our race or ethnic origin is "human". ANNA FREEMAN
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

Dumb kids' TV

Sir: TV is a powerful educational medium. On average children spend more time in front of the box than in front of their teachers. Whereas Tom Sutcliffe points to both good and bad in television, that which is aimed at children is dismal ("The one-eyed hypnotist", 4 March).

I challenge any adult to watch any single episode of *Blue Peter* from beginning to end, and consider whether they like the idea of these presenters being a role model for their children or grandchildren. *Live and Kicking*, *Dig It* and others are so poor my challenge would be unfair.

The influence of these programmes on speech, manners and morality is probably as great as parents and teachers put together.

Having watched the trivia presented to our rising generation with such empty enthusiasm, one might re-read *Brave New World* and shudder at the accuracy of Huxley's predictions.

"Dumbing down" may go out of fashion as a phrase but the phenomenon is set to continue unless the present vicious circle can be broken.

Only an independent BBC could do this, but it now seems hell-bent

on undercutting ITV in programme merit. M. A. ATTEWELL
Durham

Sir: I was surprised that Andreas Whittam Smith ("It's dumb to say that culture is just plumbing the depths", 8 March) left radio out of his pantheon of cultural delights.

The BBC networks, Radio 3 and Radio 4, are a must for literate people interested in the arts, current affairs and informed opinion. There is a wealth of drama, music, comedy, literary criticism and philosophical discussion to be found there daily. And one does not have to find parking to enjoy this munificence. JOHN O'BYRNE
Dublin

Sir: Will Wyatt makes a decent case for the BBC as a modern public service broadcaster (Podium, 3 March).

However, when he says that "Parliament" is one of the key areas of development, he clearly doesn't include the Scottish Parliament. The BBC's attitude is shown by its arrogant refusal to allow BBC Scotland to produce its own 6 o'clock television news programme containing national, British and international news. The BBC will find many Scots tuning into STV for information on their new national parliament. DEREK YOUNG
Edinburgh

Sir: John Walsh is right to emphasise the joys of "getting" low culture ("How low can we go", 2 March). But his belief in a hierarchy of high and low culture is too entrenched. A hierarchy assumes a generalised response from the viewer, reader, listener. Post-modernism, if it means anything, is the understanding that response is based on individual experience as well as shared assumptions. In effect every reader creates a slightly different text. TOM DE CASTELLA
Sheffield

Sir: I have great exception to the suggestion (Deborah Ross, 8 March) that I have a picnic hamper at Arsenal games and cry "A nice bit of Brie anyone?" Dolcelatte or a pleasing Wensleydale perhaps, but never Brie. PIERS MORGAN
(Educated at Chadley and Leazes Priory comprehensive schools, East Sussex)
Editor
"The Mirror"
London E14

Ghosts of Ruthenia

Sir: I can add a sinister footnote to Timothy Garton Ash's article "Long live Ruthenia" (Weekend Review, 6 March), a country which existed for just one day in 1939, according to Alan Bullock in *Hitler, a Study in Tyranny*.

I taught in south-west Poland for three semesters and went on a trip with a class to the South-east.

We emerged at a large, derelict station. The state of the rails indicated that no train had travelled beyond to the frontier with Slovakia for some years.

Walking from the train we went to the tourist house past an abandoned graveyard. The inscriptions on the elaborate wrought iron crosses were in Cyrillic and Polish. Further on was a stretch of what had been a road and on either side were mounds covered in nettles.

This was a Ruthenian village. They continued to fight for independence after the end of the Second World War. Normality (probably not the right word) was imposed by the Communists but fighting continued with the Polish Home Army, supported by London, as well as other minorities. Memorials to the Second World War would often have the year in which it ended as 1947 rather than 1945.

The authorities considered that the only solution to the problem the Ruthenians presented was to deport them to the north of Poland.

The village of Lupkow became derelict and a new one, Nowy Lupkow, was built nearby. R. L. WILLOTT
Claines, Worcestershire

Britons' status

Sir: I shall be most interested to hear what is in the forthcoming White Paper on British citizenship and the dependent territories, as I believe the arrangement is likely to be non-reciprocal (report, 19 February). That is, that British citizens still in Britain will not have full right of entry into the territories.

This is probably reasonable, since most of the territories could not absorb much extra migration, but my question is concerned with that small band, of which I am a member, of Brits who already live and work in the territories, most of them for many years (17 for me) yet who still have to get entry permits and work permits every year. Will we still be forced to live "on sufferance" while our friends and neighbours have full rights to go to the UK? A. J. EDWARDS
Road Town, British Virgin Islands

Weighty matters

Sir: Dr Anthony Egan's letter (3 March) suggests that astronauts are "weightless". If they were they would travel away from the earth in a straight line. It is their weight (somewhat less than their weight at the earth's surface) which provides the centripetal force which keeps them travelling in a circular orbit around the earth. Their spacecraft is behaving in the same way, so in relation to the spacecraft they appear weightless.

His idea that mass is "how much stuff there is" is not wholly incorrect but I think that Newton would have preferred the idea of mass being a measure of the resistance of an object to having its motion changed. Which is why Brussels's use of the word mass is appropriate in the context of bringing a trailer or caravan to a stop in a safe distance. SEB MOORE
Little Walsingham, Norfolk

Cheesed off

Sir: I have great exception to the suggestion (Deborah Ross, 8 March) that I have a picnic hamper at Arsenal games and cry "A nice bit of Brie anyone?" Dolcelatte or a pleasing Wensleydale perhaps, but never Brie. PIERS MORGAN
(Educated at Chadley and Leazes Priory comprehensive schools, East Sussex)
Editor
"The Mirror"
London E14

IN BRIEF

for management of schools in Hackney, east London (report, 4 March). If private firms can run schools, does this mean that, if an industrial firm looks like becoming bankrupt, schoolteachers will be brought in to run it? Perhaps the CBI would like to comment? MARC HURSTFIELD
Northfleet, Kent

Sir: Rather than a meaningless financial penalty for his taunts at Graeme Le Saux, the Football Association should insist that Robbie Fowler plays the remainder of the season with a pink triangle sewn on his shirt. CLIVE JONES
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Sir: Small wonder that Marks and Spencer is no its beam-ends if it spends good money to listen to the retail consultants' verdict deliver an opinion on "the re-branding and price repositioning processes". "Clothing sales battle is set to intensify", 8 March. A streamlined company would refer to altering the prices. MONTAGUE BREEM
Chinnor, Oxfordshire

Sir: David Blunkett "is likely to invite private firms and neighbouring councils" to bid

Sir: Lord Denning was not "the century's greatest judge" (report, 6 March). He did a lot of harm to British justice by refusing to accept the appalling vista that British police could lie in court and he actually believed that the Birmingham Six should have been hanged to cover up the injustice. If he is the greatest, God save us from the best. PETER MULLIGAN
Arts Project, Irish Community
Northampton

Sir: David Blunkett "is likely to invite private firms and neighbouring councils" to bid

Sir: David Blunkett "is likely to invite private firms and neighbouring councils" to bid

When Dr Cunningham threatened to hang Prince Charles

IT'S TIME for another helping of *The History of King Tony* or *New Labour's Lost*, the Shakespearean comic-tragic-history of King Tony's efforts to get his country into Europe, or at least into the next century. In the last extract, King Tony lost 10 of his bravest knights, Sir Peter Mandelson and Sir Geoffrey Robinson. Now what new woes will beset our brave monarch?

The scene is the king's council chamber, where his advisers, spin doctors, soothsayers, astrologers, Catholic spies, etc, await him. Enter the King, followed closely by Lord "Doctor" Jack Cunningham. They stand apart and converse.

King Tony: How goes the world with thee, Lord High Enforcer?

Is all at peace and quiet in my realm?
Jack: My liege, your countrymen are well content, except in Scotland, Wales and Eltham, Kent.
Tony: The Scottish and the Welsh are always trouble.
But what can all suburban, Kentish Eltham. Near where the A2 sweeps its lordly way

Down to the ancient town of Dover, where A tunnel, dug so cunningly 'neath the ocean. Does take our British shoppers 'cross to France Where they may buy their groceries far more cheap Than they can get them in a British shop...

Does that explain the grievances in Eltham?
Jack: In part, my Lord: but chief among their woes Is the unpunished killing of a black boy there By young white thugs who still walk free today.

Tony: Then they must hang! Go, fetch the constable!
Jack: Oh, that it were quite so easy as all that! Alas, the constable himself is also suspect.

Tony: Of killing the hapless youngster, do you mean?
Then send for men to bring the constable in And I shall have him hanged before nightfall!

Jack: No, sire. That will not help. The constable Is not exactly guilty. But his chief, Sir Paul, Is thought to know much more than he lets on. Tony: Then bring Sir Paul, this rascal, here to me. And we shall string him from the nearest tree!
Jack: No, sire. That will not do. We must proceed More gently. Bloody deeds may cleanse your soul But injure you in an opinion poll.



MILES KINGSTON

I seethe! I burn! Base Michael and vile Charles Shall feel the fiery edge of my just wrath!

Tony: How right you are, Lord "Doctor" Cunningham! From rash reactions you are there to save me!

But soft - who comes here splashed with mud, As one who rides non-stop for days and days? Enter a breathless messenger.

Messenger: King Antony, I ride hotfoot from Wales. To bring you news of freshly brewing trouble!

Tony: How can this be? I thought I'd sorted out The voting for the new Welsh parliament!

Saw you not the way I stitched up Rhodri Morgan And engineered into the seat of power Duke Allan Michael, boring but so loyal?

Jack: I did, my liege, and well you did it too. Messenger: And yet this same Duke Michael will incur

Your wrath for what he's done this day in Wales. Together with Prince Charles, the Old Pretender, He has combined to eat a plate of meat!

Tony: Can such a deed be called so very wrong? Messenger: The meat they ate was beef, still on the bone!

Jack: Oh, this is treachery! This is black and base! I seethe! I burn! Base Michael and vile Charles Shall feel the fiery edge of my just wrath! They have defied the ban and both must hang!

Tony: Come now, my good Lord "Doctor", come! Just now you urged me not hang Paul Condon. And now I beg you to be calm and sweet.

To hang Duke Allan Michael is not meet. The folk of Wales might take the thing awry

If their new leader was hung out to dry. Jack: You may be right. I should just simmer down.

Tony: And now it's time to fetch Duke Gordon. Brown!

Jack: You aim to hang your trusty Chancellor? Tony: No, no! Well, not quite yet, at least, for now. No, this is the time when he compiles his Budget. That moment when he tells the folk of England

How he will take more money from their purse. He loves this moment, when he strides the stage And seem to be the expert of the age!

And so I love to put my oar in too And tell Duke Gordon Brown just what to do. Jack: Which drives him mad?

Tony: Which sends him round the bend! And that of course is just what I intend! More of this intriguing saga tomorrow!

THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Walkers all over the country can celebrate a victory

THE PRIME Minister spent the last years of Labour's Opposition promising more access to the countryside: indeed, he specifically promised a statutory "right to roam" over heath, down and moorland. Mr Blair's promise would have made for painful reading this morning, had the rumours that the Government was considering only local voluntary agreements been confirmed. In fact, the plans announced yesterday by the environment minister, Michael Meacher, at least promise the fulfilment of Mr Blair's pledge. Walkers and ramblers all over the country - including those in the Cabinet - should celebrate.

One of New Labour's most strongly worded pledges in opposition was the promise to create a legally enforceable "right to roam" over uncultivated land; but the vague reference to more "access" in Labour's 1997 election manifesto seemed to be a worrying indication of retreats to come on this issue.

We now know that those fears were exaggerated. A Countryside Agency will oversee local agreements between landowners and ramblers; the role of local forums will be purely to advise. There will be a statutory right to roam, which will usually take precedence over restrictions necessary to safeguard the environmental worth of special sites, and to protect farmers from the damage done by walkers trampling over their crops.

Local agreements may do little to open up new areas. Responsible landowners and farmers will co-operate, and continue to provide well-marked footpaths and tracks on their land. Bullies such as Nicholas Van Hoogstraten - the target of Ramblers Association protests at the 9-ft-high fence he has constructed across a public right of way in East Sussex - will probably go on obstructing and frustrating the legitimate claims of walkers.

The vital element in Mr Meacher's announcement is that such obstruction will not be tolerated: there will be no private vetoes for anyone. Arbitration between conflicting demands, now to be placed in the hands of Ewen Cameron as the new head of the Countryside Agency, will be vital in deciding which side prevails in deadlocks such as that on Mr Van Hoogstraten's land. Mr Cameron is a former head of the Country Landowners' Association, and has in the past publicly opposed a right to roam. Now he is said to be enthusiastically behind the Government's reforms. He will have to prove that his conversion is real.

New Labour has compromised on other "countryside" issues such as fox-hunting and farm subsidies, and has spared the voting rights of some hereditary peers sitting in the House of Lords. Now it appears to have realised the political harm these compromises were causing. Opinion polls show the public to be overwhelmingly in favour of the type of access that yesterday's plans



promise. One of the first acts of the Scottish Parliament - probably headed by a Labour first minister - later in the year will be to inaugurate a right to roam, fitting recognition of that country's long tradition of a more open countryside. The Parliamentary Labour Party was keen on Gordon Prentice's Private Member's Bill that has forced the Government's hand: Mr Blair could not afford to divide his party, as well as alienate the wider public, in his efforts to appease Middle England.

Landowners and the Conservatives, who yesterday in the Commons appeared to act almost as their mouthpiece, should realise that access to uncultivated land can no longer be denied. The local forums that will try to reach agreement between landowners and the public will be their last chance to show that they can act responsibly. Public and Government will be watching them; if they attempt to stand in the way of access, they will be overruled. The Government's radicalism is a welcome renewal of its radical mandate, won in opposition to such vested interests.

The Commonwealth can help the Caribbean

COMMONWEALTH DAY passed off yesterday with few celebrations. The attendance of parliamentary leaders at Westminster Abbey, and the Queen's Message emphasising the role of sporting links, passed without much impact on public consciousness. This is a depressing state of affairs, for we still have economic, political and judicial links with our old Empire which cannot be forgotten. The Caribbean, in the headlines owing to the "banana wars" with the US, is a good example. The legacy of our rule there is that too many countries are locked in inter-island strife, small economies unable to support specialisation and exposed to economic shocks such as the banana conflict.

Nor is our responsibility limited to a historic legacy. Prisoners in many of Britain's ex-colonies can still appeal to

the Privy Council in London. Hundreds of people have successfully appealed against their death sentences in this way. The signs are that Caribbean governments will not stand for this much longer, as they prepare to institute their own Caribbean Supreme Court.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the death penalty, the Caribbean's sovereign nations have a right to decide their own laws without British pressure - recently extended to urging more liberal laws on homosexuality. The inter-island co-operation inherent in a new Supreme Court can only be a good thing, especially if extended to economics. That should allow these countries to end clashes between European Union aid policy, administered through the Lomé Convention, and separate bilateral national agreements that serve only to divide and confuse aid efforts.

More should have been done of Commonwealth Day, revealing our duty to make amends for past exploitation, and encourage economic development and co-operation among those we once presumed to rule.

How I learnt to hate the landowner and love the Rambler

ALMOST EXACTLY 500 years ago, at Wormleighton on the border between Northamptonshire and Warwickshire, a court official, William Cope, had his manor enclosed. As a consequence 12 farms and three cottages were pulled down and their 60 or so inhabitants evicted. Eight years later Cope sold up to a John Spencer, who built himself a manor house there. Unfortunately for Spencer there were rules against depopulating the countryside, and he found himself up before the beak for the acts committed by Cope. Spencer was ordered to pull down his hedges, fill in his ditches and restore the land to farming.

This brought forth a great wall of protest. As recorded by WG Hoskins, in *The Making of the English Landscape*, Spencer argued that he had done great works on his land. He had maintained the parish church (vestments, chalice, the lot), built four houses for retainers, bred and fed more cattle than before, and sown acorns for trees. Furthermore, he lamented, were he to be forced to restore the land, "it should be his utter undoing" economically. Nevertheless, Spencer lost his case and down came the enclosing hedges. It was not, however, as history records, quite his "utter undoing"; the Spencers of Althorp have long had a bob or two.

Each of Spencer's arguments seems eerily familiar to anyone who has been listening to the Country Landowners' Association (CLA) and the countryside lobby since the last election. The promise of the Bill to increase public access to private land (published yesterday) led to a perfect

compendium of ingenious objections to any presumption of a right to roam. Rare red kites will no longer fly over carefully husbanded land, tended and watched over by loving rural custodians. Instead, an ignorant (if good-natured) townie army of picnickers and Rotweiler owners would scare the birds, pick the flowers, scatter litter and destroy the fragile economy of the countryside. No, access by the public to private areas should be a matter of voluntary agreement, sensitive to local needs and inexpensive to enforce.

In a lazy way I had, for a long time, bought most of this argument. When I was young, and used to camp a lot, we were taught always to seek pitching permission from the landowner, and to be pathetically grateful if he or she permitted the corner of a far-flung field to be occupied for a night or two. And, to be fair, permission was usually granted, and often with good grace. But I had no real concept of exercising a "right". All the rights were on the side of those who owned the land; we were there on sufferance.

Furthermore, I like the word "voluntary". It is the opposite of "compulsory", and would seem more liberal. Indeed, the "letter than thou" Lib Dem leadership candidate Charles Kennedy recently argued that a right to roam would be a legal minefield, and that any move to increase access should depend upon "consultation, co-operation and compromise, and a positive attitude by landowners and managers". All those warm "co-" words appeal, especially when contrasted with the apparent im-



possibility of the Ramblers Association, New Age travellers and the Byronic Dr George Monbiot. But I've changed my mind. Paradoxically it was the Countryside Alliance's great marches to London that started me thinking that perhaps old Monbiot et al might be right. Here were all those country types come to London, telling us that we urbanites should stay out of the meadows and copses because they alone understood how to manage the land, and we would only wreck things. All of a sudden I wondered whether this were true. Like others I began to examine the record, to ask questions.

For instance, if it was the case, as the CLA claimed, that their members wanted to see greater public access to their land, why hadn't they already seen to it that this was granted? And

even now, when legislation was approaching noisily, like a distant steam train, why was their own voluntary scheme, the "Permitted Access" register, so utterly pathetic? I looked up the access for walkers in Shropshire. In the whole county, there were 20 schemes listed.

The conclusion to be drawn from this (and the Government has drawn it) is that landowners do not want the public on their land. And that they will invent any number of plausible-sounding reasons as to why the public needs to stay away, or should be allowed in only under the most restrictive circumstances. Yet there is no evidence whatsoever (I mean none) that properly regulated public access damages rural business, the environment, the survival of the red kite or anything else. Indeed the opposite appears to be the case. Oh, and as you might expect, in Scandinavia rights to roam exist without creating "legal minefields" or proving to be anybody's "utter undoing".

So why not here? I blame it on the monarchy. The Archers, the National Trust and the English desire for all paradises to be exclusive. Together these have produced in us a self psychology, whereby we have acceded to the idea of owning land from which we may be excluded, in the hope that we too may one day exclude others. We think it both natural and culturally desirable that rich people should have large estates (call it "heritage"), whose enjoyment is predicated on keeping the riff-raff out. We have been taught by Phil, Jill, Dan, Doris and David that outsiders on your

land equals poaching, open gates, dead sheep and loss of profit.

And yet, until 300 years ago our forebears walked more or less wherever they wanted. Paths marked the most convenient ways to travel, not as today - the only permitted ways. Land ownership conveyed the right to profit from land, not the right to exclude all others from it. And then we allowed all this to disappear, and - for the best part of two centuries - the rights of landowners increased at the expense of all the other subjects of the Crown. Forests were enclosed or destroyed, common land was seized, rights of way were barred and the right to hunt wild animals was aggrandised by the few.

This continues today. Oliver Rackham, in *The History of the Countryside*, remarks on the practice of purpoising, or annexation by stealth. It "begins with a householder mowing the verge outside his garden, continues with boulders placed to prevent people driving on the verge, and ends with the ditch filled in and the verge absorbed into the garden". Some of what landowners hold, they have no right to: it was simply that - at the time - no one had the time or money to contest their actions.

Yesterday all that ended. The Bill announced by Michael Meacher is the first substantial attempt in several centuries to try to redress an imbalance that has been made, falsely, to seem natural. It represents a break with our self psychology, our forelocking tutelage, our elevation of property rights over human rights. And never mind the Spencers.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He did his own thing but he was a great ball-player, that's all I know."

Yogi Berra,

on his Yankees team-mate Joe DiMaggio

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The Chancellor of the Exchequer is entrusted with a certain amount of misery which it is his duty to distribute as fairly as he can."

Robert Louis,

Chancellor of the Exchequer 1868-73

Real life drama.
10 o'clock nightly.

Watch the new ten o'clock news from the award-winning Sky News Team tonight.

SKY NEWS

Don't miss news AT TEN

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

World press comment on the current trade war between the US and Europe

hurricane-hit Honduras by America's Chiapala or from former European colonies in the Caribbean by Ireland's Fyites. But the WTO's dispute settlement procedures also need urgent overhaul to stop such rows from festering in future. And America and Europe must grasp the desirability of abiding by WTO judgments. The WTO, like any

international organisation, ultimately relies on consent. It can work only if all its members, particularly the biggest ones, agree to act in good faith. *The Economist*, UK

EUROPE is trying to tilt its market in favor of local banana importers, aircraft manufacturers and beef farmers and ward off cheaper US competition. Since open protectionism is no longer respectable, Europe cloaks its efforts with arguments about

pollution, beef hormones and the devastation that free trade in bananas would produce in former Caribbean colonies. While not entirely without merit, these arguments disguise the real motives of European governments - and impede reasonable solutions. A transatlantic trade war is in nobody's interest. Further frictions are likely as the US and Europe adjust their relationship to new circumstances. *The New York Times*, US

PRESIDENT CLINTON is wrong. He says the trade dispute between his country, the United States, and the European Community is not really about bananas. In his view it is about the rules governing the world trading system. But the President, from his position as head of the government of a state that does not grow bananas for export, keeps looking at the issue through vision impaired by myopia. He does not understand that the banana

issue is more than about rules. It is about people. The penalties facing the people of the Caribbean Community if Clinton has his way would be horrendous. Community representatives in Washington should let the American Government be aware of this prospect. *Trinidad Guardian*

THE EU should start treating banana imports equally, whether they are shipped from

PANDORA

STEVE LEWIS-HAMILTON, the subject of a Carlton World documentary next month, is Pandora's kinda dude. Winners focuses on the former meat-market porter's current gig as a professional gambler. He has racked up £60,000 a year in the last decade - and being a sporting guy, generously agreed to share his top tips. Lewis-Hamilton's nap is Deano's Beano (currently 4-1 for Cheltenham's Stayers' Hurdle on 18 March) "and the nag will take some beating". French Holly, in the Champion Hurdle two days before, is a good each-way shot at 7-4, he says, even at 7-1 to win. "Especially if anything happens to the favourite, Istabraq". For the Grand National, Lewis-Hamilton likes Double Thriller: "It's got a big chance at 8-1; it's well handicapped." The man also suggests Arsenal as good value for the Premiership at 7-2; Man Utd have two tough games coming up and Chelsea "don't have the staying distance. Arsenal's run-in doesn't look too tough and Man Utd have Euro commitments." Of course, investment values may go down as well as up...

... AS NO ONE knows better than the curiously tattooed newspaper heir Lachlan Murdoch. According to Maggie Alderson's piece in next month's *Tatler*, the thrustingly good-looking millionaire Aussie media scion proposed to the lingerie model Sarah O'Hare (below) the night before the Melbourne Cup. She accepted, and as the love-struck couple posed at the racecourse for the paparazzi, they noticed that a horse called Tie the Knot was among the big-race runners. Did it win? As if Pandora trusts this is not an omen.

NOW THAT Stanley Kubrick has rolled his final credits, it seems timely to mention that his masterpiece, *A Clockwork Orange*, a film he personally released after its initial release, is legally available on video. Kubrick's should Eurostar it over to Paris and, unless you're lucky enough to have a Secam converter, watch it in black and white - but without dubbing or irritating subtitles. Well worth buying popcorn for.

THE US government has urged research labs to pioneer "more

sophisticated systems" to protect Salt Lake City's 2002 Winter Olympics from rogue chemical and biological agents. Detectors currently fill a laboratory-sized room; the aim is to miniaturise them into handheld units for cops and firefighters. Very laudable, but shouldn't the technology be used to detect rogue chemical and biological agents in some of the competitors?

MARTIN BELL may have faced snipers in Bosnia and Christine Hamilton on Knutsford Heath, but the white-suited one's sternest test has materialised from an unexpected quarter. The graphologist Alan Conway amazed listeners to Spectrum, a battling radio station in the South-east, with his candid character analysis of Parliament's only Independent MP Conway says Bell's writing suggests he's arrogant, dogmatic and prone to low self-esteem. Bell diplomatically agreed with most of the analysis, but took exception to "arrogant". "I don't think I'm arrogant. I don't go round attacking other parties," Strike arrogant, insert naïve?

CARS SLOWED to a crawl on Chelsea's Royal Avenue this week as drivers rubber-necked a palatial white house whose windows were filled with glitterati as the walls shook from rock'n'roll. It was Richard O'Hare (below) the night before the Melbourne Cup. She accepted, and as the love-struck couple posed at the racecourse for the paparazzi, they noticed that a horse called Tie the Knot was among the big-race runners. Did it win? As if Pandora trusts this is not an omen.

Contact Pandora by e-mail on pandora@independent.co.uk

An orgy of sanctimonious celebs



TERENCE BLACKER

It's unsettling to find alternative comedians cooing at one another from Celebrityland

are distributing "Brush Up with Colgate for Comic Relief" leaflets. Then there's a Body Shop Kissing Kit, a red nose Parker pen, while Pritt Stick are sponsoring a card design kit for kiddies to make their own Mother's Day cards. The giving just goes on and on.

It goes without saying that the People's Party are in the vanguard of celebrity carers. Gordon Brown,

the gentle Chancellor, has already posed for a Comic Relief photo-opportunity and it would be no surprise to see him present the Budget wearing a red nose of caring.

No one could deny that this great charity event is doing excellent work for those who participate. Comedians, politicians and soap opera actors can boost their often flagging careers with a public display of those two essential attributes for the modern celebrity: a social conscience and a sense of humour. Large businesses, many of whom have a less than spotless record of philanthropy, can flag their products with the help of free publicity from a compliant press. The BBC can fill up programme space with embarrassingly feeble material. It also, importantly and undeniably, provides a massive boost for worthwhile charities - £138m over the past 14 years.

But is there not something creepily sentimental and self-indulgent about this great annual orgy of public, institutionalised giving? Night after night, we are subjected to show-us-you-care bullying from comedians, the very people who

should stand back from the herd and distrust the Diana effect. How unsettling it is to find yesterday's alternative comedians trilling and cooing at one another from the heart of Celebrityland.

First giving becomes part of show business; soon it becomes all show, complete with well-lit documentary film and a backing track from Robbie Williams. Ever since Billy Connolly blubbed in front of the Live Aid cameras, having watched a film of starving Africans to the sweet but utterly irrelevant strains of a number by The Cars, the connection between gloopy pop songs and real suffering has become acceptable. Today even grown-ups like Richard Curtis can, without a second thought, introduce a Desert Island favourite by the country chanteuse Iris Dement with some well-meaning, lachrymose thoughts about Third World suffering.

It is as if Hollywood effects must be deployed to remind us how to feel, as if we endlessly need to be reassured of how generous and giving and kind we have all become. "You are a truly amazing bunch of people," Lenny Henry tells us in thanks

for raising "a largituous £27m" last year. But are we that amazing really? Take a look at the endless TV documentaries that record and baton upon the various types of selfishness, cruelty, vanity and betrayal at the heart of modern society. Consider the behaviour of tabloid journalists, mocking and persecuting the celebrity victim of the moment on behalf of readers who have become suffering junkies, hooked on human pain. See the behaviour of hosts, guests and audiences on daytime TV shows: they cry - trying to obligate - but does the crushing, all-exclusive obsession with self honestly represent a more caring society than that of 10, 20 or 30 years ago?

Of course, we should give. We should try to ignore such ghastly stunts as Ruby Wax pretending to be a soufflé in a sketch with Gary Rhodes; close our ears to the smooth, sincere tones of Stephen Fry; and indulge the zany antics of lovable Lenny. But perhaps it's time to stop wearing our hearts on our sleeves, our red noses on our faces, quite so snugly. Because deep down, we all know that this week's a show biz thing.

The unbearable arrogance of the world's only superpower



GAVIN ESLER

Clinton babbles that Europe must 'play by the rules' while insisting only American rules count

men might take to the drug trade as a way of making a living. Privately, this has been a worry for months among British diplomats. One very senior British diplomat says the banana row is the most bitter dispute he can recall between London and Washington - as bad as the 1983 disagreement over the US invasion of Grenada - and that the Americans just won't listen to reason.

Yet immediately following the statements by the St Lucian Prime Minister, I interviewed a spokesman from the US Trade Representative's office in Washington which is at the centre of the dispute. He quickly brushed off the concerns of the Caribbean banana producers, in effect suggesting that the United States knows better about the economic interests of the region than the people who actually live there. This is as patronising as the British in the days of the Raj, and - again like the British a century ago - American insensitivity to foreign opinion stretches far deeper.

Last week saw the acquittal on manslaughter charges of US Marine

pilot Captain Richard Ashby. He flew a military aircraft into the cable which held up a gondola above the Italian ski resort of Cavalese a year ago, killing 20 people. Ashby was supposed to be flying at a top speed of 517 mph and an altitude of 2000 feet. He hit the cable at 621 mph and was just 370 feet above the valley floor, yet a US military jury found him not guilty. "If those accused are not guilty," the Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema complained, "then we would like to know who is." The Mayor of Cavalese, Mauro Gimozzi, called the verdict "a profound injustice, an affront to common sense and an insult to the families of those who died".

The Italians wanted to try Captain Ashby themselves, but the Pentagon cited NATO treaty provisions and flew him back to North Carolina. It is, frankly, unacceptable that if an Italian pilot killed 20 American citizens in Aspen or Vail, he would escape punishment. If America is so reluctant to see its soldiers tried abroad, even in a friendly NATO country, can it imagine the virtual impossibility of the United States ever signing up to any international human rights regime which could lead to soldiers facing charges for their actions during combat.

But if irritating Britain and Italy in the past few days is not enough, it was also Germany's turn to feel scorned. The state of Arizona gassed to death a German-born convicted murderer Walter LaGrand despite strong protests from Germany's justice minister. She criticised the United States for ignoring international treaties and called the execution barbaric.

Now our imperial pretensions are long gone, the British can joke about 19th-century arrogance, the "white man's burden", and British newspaper reports of fog in the



Captain Ashby: not guilty of cable-car deaths Randy Davey

Channel ensuring that the Continent is cut off. But at the end of the 20th century, the United States displays all the imperial and insular insensitivity of Palmerston's Britain.

Last year, at crucial stages in the Lewinsky affair, Bill Clinton invented his own gunboat diplomacy. He ordered Cruise missile strikes against a terrorist base in Afghanistan and a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan. Washington has never produced any credible evidence that the Sudanese factory was making chemical weapons, but the US government has not apologised for blowing it to pieces.

In a one-superpower world, there is no way of holding the Clinton administration to account, nor is there much of an outcry in the media about America acting tough in faraway countries full of troublesome foreigners. We have almost daily bombings of Iraq, with Britain tagging along as a partner. At least 17 Iraqi civilians have been killed and, to the annoyance of Turkey, the main oil pipeline from Iraq has been destroyed. In taking on Saddam, as

so often this century, the United States is firmly on the side of Good against Evil, though the policy towards Iraq is arguably as flawed as the policy which has kept Fidel Castro in power in Cuba for 40 years. But if it is in British interests to lead a hand against the Iraqi tyrant, we still have cause to worry.

Our role looks to many Arabs as if we are merely giving a multi-lateral gloss to what is effectively an American show. The greatest superpower in the history of the world is not always right. When it is wrong, it rarely admits it. And when it is right, the perceived arrogance of unchecked American power might yet prove unbearable. With the confidence of a sleepwalker, the Clinton administration seems to regard foreigners in much the same way as Ronald Reagan did after a visit to Latin America in 1982.

"You'd be surprised," Reagan said. "They're all individual countries." You'd be surprised. Gavin Esler is a presenter on BBC News 24 and author of *The United States of Anger*.

THE INDEPENDENT

Cherrywood Cutting Board
with Knife Draw - £19.99 inc p&p



This is a superb opportunity to purchase this solid Cherrywood End Grain chopping board with built in knife drawer, made in the USA. Previously sold for up to £40.00 you can buy this ideal kitchen utility for just £19.99 including carriage. Beautifully made and finished by hand the solid Cherrywood end grain board section measures 12x16" with a substantial depth of 1". The hardwood drawer section adds a further 2 1/2" in depth and has three sections with lift out separations allowing enough room for your favourite knives and preparation tools. The unit also has non-slip safety feet. The end grain structure of the surface board is created to worldwide professional standards ensuring that wear from regular use is at an absolute minimum whilst maintaining the decorative appeal of end grain. This is a high quality product which will stay looking good whilst giving many years of service and at this unusually low price offers remarkable value.

HOW TO ORDER (for UK residents only)
Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal order. NO CASH please to - THE INDEPENDENT CHERYWOOD BOARD OFFER, 59 Queens Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex S81 1NL. For ACCESS/VISA orders, please phone 01702 339222.

We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Offer subject to availability.

Please send me _____ Cherrywood Board's @ £19.99 each inc p&p

I enclose a crossed cheque for £ _____

address on back. I made payable to: Independent Newspapers (UK) Ltd (IND90) or debit my Access/VISA account by this amount. My card number is: _____

Expires Date: _____

Signature: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Post Code: _____
Send to: THE INDEPENDENT CHERYWOOD BOARD OFFER, 59 Queens Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex S81 1NL. Please send for full terms and conditions to: Independent Newspapers (UK) Ltd, 59 Queens Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex S81 1NL.

How reliable is animal testing?

TAKING MEDICATION is a daily routine for many. Lives are routinely saved by medicines such as antibiotics, vaccines, and chemotherapeutic agents. Drugs such as painkillers and anaesthetics daily improve the lives of millions more.

Before being marketed, these miracle drugs are tested first on animals, and then in clinical trials on human volunteers. The animal tests are intended to evaluate new medications for toxicity, carcinogenicity, teratogenicity, side-effects and sometimes, efficacy. Human trials are then undertaken to verify that the animal tests have accurately predicted the effects and side-effects of the new drugs on humans. Human clinical trials take place in many forms.

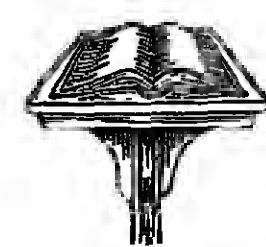
Humans who are very sick can be given an untried medication that may help them. This occurs in patients with potentially fatal diseases such as cancer or AIDS. If the patient is likely to die from their disease, then they are thought to have nothing to lose and potentially much to gain from trying the new drug. Co-ordinators of

human trials can also ask for volunteers, to take the medication and then undergo blood tests and report side-effects. The humans volunteering for clinical trials are assured that the risk they are taking is minimal. After all, the drugs have already passed animal trials.

Does animal experimentation really contribute to the safety of those volunteering to test new medicines? How reliable is animal testing in terms of human safety? Let's look at the example of Thalidomide.

Thalidomide may be the best-known medication that harmed humans even after extensive animal testing. Like all drugs, it was tested on animals prior to being released. However, not until phocomelia had been recognised in babies whose mothers had taken the drug, did it undergo extensive animal tests for teratogenesis.

The researchers working with Thalidomide had done experiments on rats, but had not produced the characteristic limb abnormalities seen in humans. After clinicians warned that they suspected Thalidomide of causing this devastating birth defect in children, researchers raced back



PODIUM

C RAY GREEK
From a speech by the organ transplant expert to the Doctors for Responsible Medicine Conference in London

to the lab to see if their clinical brethren were correct.

Despite testing Thalidomide on scores of species, breeds, and strains of animals, phocomelia was infrequently seen. Testing on more than 50 types of animals did not consistently produce the side-effects that crippled thousands of children. There is no way to know whether the rabbit, the beagle or the chimp will respond as does man, until one knows

how man responds. By then, the horse is well out of the barn.

Animal testing of new medications is not predictive. There is little value in confirming that a negative outcome occurs in certain other species after babies have been crippled or humans have died. The dead and crippled are unlikely to be comforted by the fact that they react as New Zealand white rabbits do but differently from guinea-pigs! There is no single animal that makes a good bellwether. An animal that responds like humans to one medication will not necessarily respond the same way to another medication.

How well the animal test predicts outcomes in humans depends on the animal species picked. However, you don't know which one to pick until after you know what the medication does to humans.

In America, the Food and Drug Administration is charged with assuring that medications released to the public are safe. It oversees clinical trials after the medications have been tested on animals. Certainly, they would not depend on animal tests unless they had great confidence

in them. One high-ranking FDA official stated: "Most of the animal tests we accept have never been validated. They evolved over the past 20 years and the FDA is comfortable with them."

Animal testing of new medicines has delayed the marketing of life-saving medications like penicillin, for years. It has the potential to prevent others from ever making it to patients who need them. It has also resulted in human beings being harmed by unsafe medications that had received a clean bill of safety in animal tests. Humans participating in clinical trials are at risk because of the false sense of security perpetuated by those who profit from the release of new medications. This includes pharmaceutical companies, pharmaceutical sales people, animal experimenters, and those who sell supplies and animals for that process.

The informed consent given to those participating in clinical trials should clearly state that the testing of new medications on animals offers no safety for the humans undergoing clinical trials.

Stand and deliver, Mr Brown



HAMISH MCRAE

Test what Mr Brown says against Lara Croft: does he make it more likely Britons take risks?

JEAN-BAPTISTE Colbert, Louis XIV's famed minister of finance, said: "the art of taxation consists of so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest amount of feathers with the least amount of hissing."

Gordon Brown has proved himself to be a skilled plucker. So successful, in fact, that he will announce today that the budget is in surplus. Thanks in part to the strong economic growth but also thanks to his ability to nudge up taxation without us noticing too much, he will be able not only to unveil the surplus but also cut some taxes and announce some new initiatives to promote faster growth. Oh yes, and there will be some new, albeit modest, spending proposals too.

A lot of feathers, muted hissing - is it all to good to be true? Any one who doubts the way in which the public verdict of a Chancellor can change should remember the fate of the last Chancellor to announce a surplus, Nigel Lawson. At the time he was the great hero of the government, now fairly or unfairly, he is regarded as the perpetrator of the "Lawson boom", and the subsequent recession. Listening to Gordon Brown today we will bear similar triumphalism. How do we distinguish the new clear signals from the cacophony of the background noise? How soon will we, as we did with Lord Lawson, start to hiss?

The new information comes in three chunks. First, what seems to be happening to the economy, for that determines the background to both the spending and the revenue side of the budget. Second, what is new about public spending, for that will ultimately determine what happens to overall tax levels. And third, to what extent is the tax system being fine-tuned to discourage things that the Government does not want people to do, and encourage things it does.

As far as the economy is concerned, it will be a humble pie time - or at least it ought to be - for growth this year is clearly going to be much lower than the Chancellor was predicting last summer. Then he forecast 2 per cent growth this year. We all knew that was for the birds, and said so at the time. By November, he was down to 1 to 1.5



Lara Croft, the computer game heroine, is the pin-up of high-tech industries - but we are more ambivalent towards encouraging low-tech industries

per cent, which still seemed a bit unlikely. Now the forecast will probably be 0.5 to 1 per cent, which looks more reasonable. The more contrite the Chancellor is about previous overestimates, the greater the credibility of the new estimates.

The next thing to watch for will be the forecast for next year. Will there be a solid recovery in the year 2000 after the pause this year? If so, why? Is the Chancellor worried about the slow-down in Europe, for growth in Euroland ground almost to a halt in the last three months of last year? If growth has been lower than expected, why will the Government's finances be better? It is partly because that growth in revenue tends to lag behind the growth of the economy, so that the Government is now receiving the benefit of the strong growth of a year or 18 months ago; it is partly because the tax increases that have been slid in over the last two years; and it is partly because spending has been held down.

That leads to the spending side. One of the characteristics of our Chancellor is that he keeps announcing new spending moves, which sound impressive, but when

you add up what is actually being spent, it is really very small. The Government has also been quite good at trying to extract more efficiency from the public sector, so the combination of small dollops of money and a general drive for better quality has given the appearance that it is running its own activities reasonably well. That is probably a fair judgement. But when examining public spending plans, look for indications of the output as much as the amount of money going in. Is the government really spending more, and if so, how well? And to what extent is it shuffling money between departments?

One thing is absolutely sure. If the government is really spending more money, the tax burden will rise. If not, then the tax burden will not rise. Elementary, but not something that Chancellors tend to shout about. And taxes? We know quite a lot about what will happen, thanks to the wise policy of having a green, or outline, Budget in November. There will be the announcement of a new 10 per cent starting band for income tax. Other hot political issues will be whether tax is applied to child benefit (probably not) and

what happens to the married tax allowance. There will be higher taxes on petrol and tweaks to the car tax system. But perhaps the most important tweak to the tax system - the one which will determine whether the budget can really be used to improve the growth prospects of the country - will be what Gordon Brown does to stimulate enterprise.

That might seem an odd point to make. Labour governments have not historically been very strong in the enterprise department. It is to the great credit of this one that it is aware that the rate at which new businesses start is one of the most important determinants, maybe the most important, of the future wealth of this nation.

For Gordon Brown, this is particularly important. He won't be Chancellor for ever; he will either be promoted or sacked. How do you make your mark? How do you really change things, hopefully for the better? Answer: you try and improve the long-term growth performance of the economy.

The most interesting aspect of this is the desire to boost risk-taking, the aim to inject something of

the fizz of American entrepreneurship into the British psyche. In terms of economic self-confidence, there is a gigantic gulf between the self-confident "we can conquer the world" attitude of the new businesses sprouting all over America (often started by 18-year-olds) and the worried, inward-looking "play it safe" attitude of much of continental Europe. Britain is somewhere in between: we have some of the American vigour, but also some of the continental timidity. But what can you do?

We will learn today, though we won't know the outcome for a decade or more. There will be a new package of measures to promote business start-ups, and to make it easier for small companies to raise risk capital. But can you make people want to take risks? It is not just a question of money; it is also a question of temperament; of style; of the values that society puts on different human behaviour.

As a society, we clearly welcome people making money from performance: football stars and pop singers are the heroes and heroines of the age. We don't, in general, welcome business people making

money. We welcome people starting high-technology businesses, but we are more ambivalent to people taking over and trying to improve low-tech ones. Contrast the attitude towards Ian Livingstone, creator of Lara Croft, and the people trying to cope with the backlog of two generations of underinvestment in the nation's trains.

Is Lara Croft high technology? That is the other thing. The new industries we are creating are brain industries: software as much as hardware. High-tech is not just Cambridge science park, though it is that too. It is bright people with ideas. When Gordon Brown stands up today, test what he says against Lara Croft: does anything he does make it more likely that talented Britons will take risks to create the new companies of tomorrow?

If not, then he will ultimately be judged a failure, like so many of his predecessors of both parties - and for that matter, like Colbert.

Colbert was a great initiator of state scientific enterprises. It seemed to work for a while, but ultimately English market-led policies outpaced French, state-led ones. Clever plucking isn't enough.

RIGHT OF REPLY

JUDITH SUMMERS



A Hampstead village resident replies to David Aaronovitch's attack on the area and its residents

IT'S A surprise to see a columnist supposedly concerned with world events preoccupied with a little affair like Hampstead's new traffic system. Let's hope his view of world affairs isn't as hysterical as his view of Hampstead.

According to Aaronovitch, Hampstead residents opposed to the scheme are "frightened conservative people who have wielded power in the old world and don't want it changed". On what does he base this sociological damnation?

Starting this spring, at a cost of around £100,000, the so-called "experimental" scheme will impose an ill-thought-out system of one-way streets, ugly signs and road closures on a beautiful and historic area. Hampstead streets are narrow, and at rush-hour there can be jams and even odd bouts of road rage. But for the remaining hours, and at weekends, the streets are virtually car-free. Camden Council proposes a sledge-hammer solution for a small problem that could be solved for a fraction of the cost by a few speed-humps and traffic-tables.

The local ambulance service and fire brigade have condemned the scheme as positively dangerous. And villagers already feel victimised by the inverted snobbery that Aaronovitch displays. Historic Hampstead is fast becoming just another urban theme park of cappuccino shops and mobile-phone showrooms.

The East Heath Association, whose "salmon-coloured" leaflet offended Aaronovitch's sensibilities, is all for traffic-calming measures. What it objects to is a heavy-handed one-way system that is both potentially dangerous and expensive. Is it just class solidarity with the People's Republic of Camden that makes Aaronovitch so in favour of the scheme? Or maybe his street is not one of the lucky few that will not be blighted by it?

Resisting the republic

TUESDAY BOOK

LOYALISTS

BY PETER TAYLOR. BLOOMSBURY. £16.99



IRISH REPUBLICANS used to believe that their enemy was the British state. Drive the Brits out and Ulster Protestants would realise that they were really Irish and everyone would live happily ever after in an all-Ireland socialist republic. Peter Taylor's book is about the people who proved the republicans wrong.

Three times this century, Ulster Protestants have become vigilantes. The first Ulster Volunteer Force, formed in 1912 to resist home rule, was a genuine mass movement. Led by the Ulster aristocracy, it recruited 90,000 men and bought a ship-load of guns. Rebellion was averted by the outbreak of war in 1914: the UVF was incorporated into the British Army as the 36th Division. In the unrest that followed the partition of the island, the UVF was

again mobilised and again co-opted by the state, this time as the Ulster Special Constabulary.

The third UVF was different. It was formed by a very small group of working-class ultra-Unionists who were persuaded, despite the lack of an active IRA, that republicans were planning to mark the 50th anniversary of the Dublin Easter Rising by launching a coup in Belfast in 1966. They protected the state by ineptly

murdering three people who had nothing at all to do with the IRA.

When the real Troubles began four years later, the UVF's leader, Gusto Spence, was languishing in Crumlin Road prison. Shipping jail while out on parole for his daughter's wedding, Spence spent four months of 1972 at liberty on the Shankill Road, in which time the UVF recruited, armed itself and set about a campaign of brutal retaliation for IRA attacks. At the same time, thousands of young men joined the vigilante groups that became the Ulster Defence Association.

In this well-informed companion to his BBC television series, Peter Taylor details the subsequent history of the UVF and UDA as they combined naked sectarian murder with occasionally well-targeted attacks on leading republicans (made easier in the Eighties by the rise of Sinn Féin as a political force). The most remarkable feature of that history is the emergence of a clear political vision from a culture of knee-jerk retaliation. Inspired by Spence's appreciation that if Northern Ireland were to have any future, it would have to accommodate the nationalist population, the UVF played a significant role in bringing about the ceasefires of 1994.

The world that produced Lenny Murphy and the Shankill Butchers also produced David Ervine and Billy Hutchinson - the only two Unionist leaders who really believed in the Good Friday agreement. While Ian Paisley was denouncing the deal and most Ulster Unionists were fatalistically endorsing it as better than it might

have been, the UVF's Progressive Unionist Party was positively promoting it as the way to a decent and fair society.

However precarious the Good Friday deal, that it is alive at all owes much to the refusal of the paramilitary leadership to endorse the martial rhetoric of some Unionist politicians. Small numbers of dissidents may try to derail the settlement, but the UVF and UDA will not again, as they did in the 1974 strike, provide the muscle for the politicians.

Taylor's book is readable and sensible in its assessment of sensitive issues. Although he concludes that Paisley sailed close to the wind in the Sixties, Taylor exonerates him from personal involvement in vigilante violence. He accepts evidence of limited security-force collusion in some loyalist activities but rejects the nationalist claim that the British security forces, rather than the UVF, bombed Dublin and Monaghan in 1974.

However, although Taylor's reporting is of the highest quality, in the end it disappoints because it fails to explain. Each facet of the paramilitaries - victim selection, organisation, political evolution, racketeering - is reasonably accurately described, but the links between them are not explored. Big, background questions are left unanswered.

For example, Portadown appears a number of times. It was the home of some of the "premature" paramilitaries of 1966 and of the UVF unit that bombed Dublin and Monaghan in 1974. Ulster Resistance, an Eighties movement that brought together the paramilitaries and the fringes of the rural evangelical world, was strongest there. It was the base of Billy "King Rat" Wright and the site of the annual Drumcree event. Why are Portadown Protestants so much more militant than, say, their Londonderry counterparts? Why do evangelical Protest-



Ulster Freedom Fighters gunman

antism and terrorism overlap in Portadown, when in Belfast those two constituencies are completely separate? Taylor reports, describes and illustrates the situation with revealing quotations from the key players, but he does not explain.

One final complaint: considering the profits the publisher must expect, the book's production is poor. It is littered with niggling errors. For instance, the Taoiseach is rendered "Taoisach" and named Bertie "Ah-erne" (as in Caroline, Mrs Merton), and the account of Drumcree 1998 is rendered baffling by the sentence "The Orangemen were now allowed down the Garvaghy Road"; the fourth word should be "not". Despite that, Taylor has performed an important function in illuminating a neglected aspect of the Northern Ireland conflict which deserves to be widely read.

STEVE BRUCE

The reviewer is professor of sociology at the University of Aberdeen

TUESDAY POEM

THE SOPHISTICATE
BY ROBERT CRAWFORD

I am a tall, mid-Western gynaecologist
Arrived in Paris for my very first time,

Sure it's a city of the imagination
Solid as this herb in Montparnasse.

Paftseries, deep spinach roulades, wines,
Dark-varnished shelves of petites tartes oignons -

I buy a hat, a small cigar, and then,
Stepping up to give my keynote speech,

I clearly see its thirty numbered pages
Locked in the third drawer down, left far behind me

In Iowa, or dour Lincoln, Nebraska,
Second Pond, Joesville, or Junction Gulch.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Robert Crawford's fourth collection, 'Spirit Machines' (Cape, £8)

Join the AA now and get free cover for a partner

You don't have to be married, in a relationship, or related to get free breakdown cover for a partner. You just have to share the same home address. Normally, this extra cover is an option costing up to £26. But join now and a year's breakdown cover for a partner comes completely free.* And remember with this offer, you and your partner will be covered, even when travelling in someone else's car.

- We have the world's largest patrol force, and fix more breakdowns at the roadside than any other motoring organisation.
- We are more likely to get you back on the road quicker than anyone else, saving you time and money.

*Available for a limited period. Certain conditions apply, call for details.

To our members we're not just a breakdown service, we're the 4th Emergency Service.



JOIN FROM £41

JOIN NOW
CALL FREE
0800
444
999

PLEASE QUOTE
OFFER CODE 6003
LINES OPEN 24 HRS
WWW.THEAA.CO.UK

Stanley Kubrick

AS A film director, Stanley Kubrick was an obsessed perfectionist. He became a very mysterious personality, for he refused to give interviews. He kept out of the idiotic showbiz limelight, so his character was not diluted by over-exposure in the media. He preserved unusual artistic integrity, though he was not above sowing false trails in his personal and professional life.

His last film, *Eyes Wide Shut*, so long in the making, so teasingly announced and coyly delayed, was the apotheosis of this hide-and-seek mentality. The stars, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, and even the bit players, had to agree to a contract stipulating no fixed time limit for the movie's completion, and that put the actors at the total mercy of the director's unpredictable caprices.

On the Internet, rumours were more than rife – they were ripe. The film is based on a story by the Austrian novelist Arthur Schnitzler, in which Nicole Kidman plays a drug-sniffing society woman with nymphomaniac tendencies. In a particularly steamy scene, Harvey Keitel was making love to her and suddenly ejaculated on her costume, after which Kubrick dismissed him and his place was taken by Sidney Pollack. An actor should simply act, and be in control of his emotions, not the slave of them. That was the Kubrick ethic.

We have waited 12 years for this new movie, since *Full Metal Jacket* (1987). If that film had been brought out in time, it would surely have beaten Oliver Stone's *Platoon* for the post for a directorial Oscar. As it was, Kubrick was never rewarded with that highest honour, and could not have cared less.

Kubrick was born and bred in the Bronx in New York in a family of Central European immigrants whose roots were in Romania, Hungary and Austria. Stanley was a rebel at school, so his father enrolled him in a chess academy to encourage serious thought – an institution of which he became the champion.

On his 12th birthday, his father presented him with a Graflex camera. This was the trigger to his future fame as a cineaste. On the way to school, carrying the camera in his lunch bag, he would snap local street scenes, and started selling his work to magazines, until he was hired by *Look* magazine. With a friend he made his first low-budget films, documentaries about boxing and a flying preacher.

In 1953, with the cash he won from a chess contest, he made his first "cheapie" feature, *Fear and Desire*, prophetically a war story set in an imaginary kingdom. It already showed his allegiance to great film noir creators Fritz Lang, Samuel Fuller, Robert Siodmak, artists of violent expressionism. Kubrick was to exploit in the crimes of *A Clockwork Orange* and the assassination of *Quilty* in *Lolita*. This early work led to his being placed under contract in Hollywood where

he made his first big feature, *The Killing*, in 1956.

Unlike many other directors, Kubrick did not allow himself to be manipulated by the studios. He oversaw all his scripts, made his own final cut, always maintained his personal style of film-making, and insisted upon the originality, often shocking at the time, of his subjects. He did not limit himself to one genre.

In 1960 he launched into a lavish peplum, *Spartacus*, starring an actor, Kirk Douglas, who was to become his friend, and closely associated with his future work. "I tried with only limited success to make the film as real as possible," he commented. "But I was up against a pretty dumb script" – by the blacklisted Dalton Trumbo – "which was rarely

Kubrick did not allow himself to be manipulated by the studios. He oversaw all his scripts, made his own final cut and insisted upon the originality, often shocking at the time, of his subjects

faithful to what is known about *Spartacus*. Nevertheless, it is a great spectacle, with interesting touches of outrageous kitsch reminiscent of the best Ricardo Freda.

But it was Kubrick's 1962 version of Nabokov's erotic thriller *Lolita* that made his name a household word. Because of censorship problems in America, it was shot in Britain. "How did they ever make a movie of *Lolita*?" was the leading come-on in the extravagant studio publicity. It drew the wrath of small-town America and British blue-noses. Accusations of incest and paedophilia have haunted the movie to the present day: a limp new version ran foul of a society recently reawakened to the perils of paedophilia, and that condemned it outright before it had even been shown.

At the time, the project seemed insane. One of the century's greatest novels, it did not really lend itself to convincing scripting, because Nabokov's voice is so unique, so immaculately personal, so brilliantly literary in its evocation of certain weird aspects of American social life. The book is too funny to be really disturbing, and this is partly what made Kubrick's version less sulphurous than it might have been.

Nabokov's prose is so enthrallingly persuasive, but much of it was lost in the simple portrayal of plot and character. Kubrick worked closely with the novelist on the script, and Nabokov was appalled by what happened to his studied aesthetic tone, although the actors, James Mason with his seductive Cambridge drawl, goofy Sue Lyon as Lolita, and the immense Shelley Winters as the eternal vivacious middle-class American widow, were perfectly directed, totally in Kubrick's control.

In 1963, the really great Kubrick period took flight with the immensely popular Peter Sellers in the multi-personality roles of *Dr Strangelove* with its ironically throwaway subtitle "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb". (The enormous success of the film did not, of course, stop the arms race or end the Cold War – our leaders are impervious to irony.) *Dr Strangelove* satirised the military unmercifully, as if it were a black comedy version of his 1958 film *Paths of Glory*.

Kubrick's peculiar sense of humour in *Dr Strangelove* expressed clearly the anti-war, anti-nuclear spirit of the times, much as *Oh, What a Lovely War!* depicts the almost sacrosanct First World War. So he shows us images of nuclear disaster backed by Vera Lynn belting out "We'll Meet Again".

The same highly personal feeling for the appropriateness of inappropriate music is found in the space-docking sequence in 2001 with "The Blue Danube" waltz, and in a sickening punch-up in *A Clockwork Orange* in which Malcolm McDowell warbles "Singin' in the Rain" – a criticism of popular sentimental song as well as a pointed sigh for irresponsibility in the young.

Full Metal Jacket ends with the jaunty rhythms of the Mickey Mouse Club. It begins with pictures of young recruits being shown by a Marine Corps demon barber to the time of an insipid lyric reminiscent of the syrupy ditties of the Second World War. One gets the feeling that nothing has changed in the army. The helpless young innocents are simply cannon fodder. Here, too, the music plays a significant atmospheric role: "These Boots Were Made for Walkin'" and "Surfin' Bird", with the "Kiddies" song at the close.

Dr Strangelove was followed in 1968 by 2001: *A Space Odyssey*, with a scenario by the magnificent SF master Arthur C. Clarke. It was the first of a long series of outer space movies, now regrettably cheapened by overuses of special effects and loud explosions.

Nineteen seventy-one saw *A Clockwork Orange* come under attack. Set in a violent future, it provoked outrage in Britain, and the anti-hero of Malcolm McDowell was accused of perverting clean-living youth, of encouraging violence and the sort of picturesque boogalooism that has now become commonplace everywhere. One of the most shock-



A vision of humanity's ineradicable beastliness: Kubrick on the set of *The Shining*, 1980

Reuters

ing episodes was for many people a rape played as a youthful romp. It seemed to suggest a total contempt for women and for sexual mores at that period, and even held ominous intimations of neo-fascism.

Kubrick spoke out against the censor in defence of his film. But in the curious fateful fashion of uncharted and unconnected events, soon after it was screened there were rapes and killings and gang confrontations between unemployed youths that might have been taken to be inspired by the violence in the movie.

Though it was totally irrational, Kubrick lost his cool at the reports and had the film withdrawn. He had also, it is said, been personally threatened. His contract stated that he could have the power to withdraw the film from the public domain, and it has not been played in Britain since the late Seventies. Its harsh vision of a London of the future has now well and truly entered the present of all our cities.

In 1975 Kubrick surprised everyone by making *Barry Lyndon*, on the surface a pretty period film seemingly entirely lit by candlelight. Behind the charm, however, lies the true Kubrick vision of humanity's in-

eradicable beastliness. This vision was raised to even greater heights of genuine horror in *The Shining* (1980) with a maniacal axe murderer played by the insanely grinning Jack Nicholson.

The literary sources of Kubrick's films are varied. He obviously was a discriminating and widely read lover of books. But his adaptations of great literary works and minor ones – from Nabokov's *Lolita* to Terry Southern's *Dr Strangelove*, with the strange branch of Thackeray's *Barry Lyndon* sticking out from among the moderns – were sometimes, under his close scrutiny, far from the originals. For example, Nabokov's work is pure language play on a banal love-and-murder framework, but for Kubrick the film makes the sense of language did not really exist.

He makes the deliberately flimsy plot more important than the words, and in doing so gives us superb satirical pictures of American daily life and speech, only hinted at by the original text. His use in other films of army slang tends to dehumanise the characters, almost as in 2001 the robot Hal's deformed speech makes him appear to be on the level of a true sub-human,

though with a sense of humour lacking in the crew of the space ship. Similarly, we value Burgess's novel for the sake of its language, a new dialect that we take pleasure in deciphering and coming to terms with. But this is missing from Kubrick's concept of the book, and that lack depressed Burgess until the sales suddenly shot up to phenomenal heights. His author's honour had been redeemed.

Kubrick had been planning a new interpretation of the Napoleonic campaigns. But in 1987 he directed the only real masterpiece on the Vietnam War, *Full Metal Jacket*. The basic training episodes and later sequences in which the men have to confront their first prisoners and express their homesick feelings about the land they are trapped in form some of the best documentary moments of a brutally realistic film. The title refers to a shell casing representing the soldier who is outwardly tough but inwardly empty, the sort who can survive such inhuman ordeals.

This troubling sense of the frailty of human character becomes even more pointed in the deeply moving portrait of a sensitive misfit, a figure of deep anguish, superbly portrayed

by Vincent D'Onofrio. The drill sergeant is an awesome brute with a voice that could shatter the sound barrier: he is a racist and a sexist whose only aim is to humiliate his men. Recent revelations prove that he is no fiction.

Full Metal Jacket was made in England, where Kubrick had lived in exile since *Lolita*. He had become a virtual recluse – who can blame him? But one of the reasons for this self-immurement was his very understandable dislike of air travel.

The years in England were not wasted. They saw the incubation of what was to be Stanley Kubrick's last film, the oddly titled *Eyes Wide Shut*, for which we shall have to wait until July to pass judgement. Whatever it is, it will be Kubrick through and through, unmistakably original. The master who did not live to see 2001 will be remembered that month with this posthumous birthday present to his devoted fans.

JAMES KIRKOP

Stanley Kubrick, film director, producer and scriptwriter; born New York 26 July 1928; married three times (three daughters); died Childwickbury, Hertfordshire 7 March 1999.

Dr Alexander Sherlock

ALEXANDER SHERLOCK represented the former South-West Essex constituency in the European Parliament from 1979 until 1989. He was known in particular for his wit and the breadth of his scientific knowledge. Two ills he attempted to cure at Strasbourg were costly bureaucracy and verbal incoherence, using blunt language (such as "cretins" for interrupters) that might have caused him trouble had he ever been a Westminster MP.

As a European Democratic Group MEP, Sherlock was more successful in his official duties as front-bench spokesman on the environment and in the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection. Whether speaking on budgets, hazardous waste, pollution in general or the quality of beers and wines, he could be relied upon to get quickly to the heart of the matter.

In a debate on dumping at sea (10 June 1986), he contended that the Rhine and the Meuse accounted for "well in excess of 20 times the



Sherlock: blunt language

highest emission that could ever be made by the United Kingdom into the North Sea alone". Sherlock went on:

I would say that the dirty man of Europe is collectively a responsibility of those potentially beautiful but filthy rivers. Second, disposal in this way looks upon the environment as if it were divisible. The environment is indivisible.

One cannot protect part of it without increased pressure on land disposal sites. I invite those select few who remain here for these debates to start looking at the disposal sites in their backyard and say what we are going to do with it all. There is a lot of stuff from doctors' gloves all the way down to sewage sludge. You may turn your back on that every morning but it has been one of the problems of *Homo sapiens* all the time.

Educated at Magdalen College School, Oxford, and Stowmarket Grammar School, Sherlock achieved his MB BS Honours degree at the London Hospital and, while a flight lieutenant in the RAF, researched airsickness.

As a general practitioner in Felixstowe from 1948 until 1979, he worked with the consequences of such disasters as the East Coast flood of 31 January 1953 that claimed 39 lives in the town. He himself became a casualty when called to an explosion that killed three men at Felixstowe gasworks in 1956. He was caught in a second blast and suffered severe leg injuries.

He found relaxation in legal stud-

ies and, in 1961, was called to the Bar. He applied his various skills as assistant deputy coroner for St Pancras in 1971 and 1972. He was also Suffolk county surgeon for the St John Ambulance Brigade, a member of the former Felixstowe Urban District Council, of East Suffolk County Council and Harwich Harbour Conservancy Board now Harwich Haven Authority) and had active roles in Rotary and Freemasonry.

After leaving the European Parliament, Sherlock continued to live at Felixstowe, where he loved to work in his garden.

DON BLACK

Alexander Sherlock, medical practitioner, barrister and politician; born Coventry, Warwickshire 14 February 1922; called to the Bar, Gray's Inn 1961; MEP (Conservative) for South-West Essex 1979-89; CBE 1989; married 1945 Peggy Scarff (died 1975; one son, two daughters); 1976 Eileen Hall (one stepdaughter); died Felixstowe, Suffolk 18 February 1999.

Eddie Dean

AS HOLLYWOOD phenomena go, the singing cowboys were a comparatively short-lived one. They made their first appearance a few years after the advent of talkies and had all but disappeared two decades later.

Cowboy songs had been a sheet-music staple since the turn of the century and in 1925 a genuine Texas cowboy, Carl T. Sprague, enjoyed sales of nearly a million copies with his "When the Work's All Done This Fall", but it was the movies that would most successfully bring together music and the Old West.

John Wayne is usually cited as the first on-screen singing cowboy, struggling to bring to life the character of Singin' Sandy in *Riders of Destiny* (1933) and setting the basic premiss for each of the musical horse operas that were to follow: white-knuckled good guy rides into town, overcomes adversity and resident bad guy whilst carrying a tune and winning the girl.

By the decade's end, Wayne had been succeeded by a string of others, two of whom, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, proved amongst the biggest box-office draws of the era. If Eddie Dean never quite made it into that league, he can lay claim to having been the finest vocalist in the genre, a talent that gained him the nickname "The Golden Voice".

He was born Edgar Dean Glosup, the seventh son of a seventh son of a seventh son, in Posey, Texas. His schoolteacher father instilled in him a love of singing and he began his career performing gospel music, first with the Vaughan and then the Stamps Quartets. He eventually joined his brother Jimmy in Chicago, where they worked as a duet



Dean: "The Golden Voice" Bobal

team on the famous WLS National Barn Dance before moving on to station WNAZ which broadcast out of Yankton, South Dakota.

In 1934 and 1935 they cut a series of duets for ARC and Decca, though none were particularly successful. A return to Chicago saw the pair get involved in radio soap opera until, in 1937, they headed south-west to California. Supporting roles in the films of both Ken Maynard and Gene Autry quickly followed, as did radio work with the hillbilly comedienne Judy Canova.

From 1946, Dean received top billing on a series of some 20 low-budget films made for the PRC studio, starting with *The Harmony Trail*. Showcases for Bill Cresspin's new colour film process, Cinecolor, they were among the first colour movies of their type. Starting alongside leading ladies like Shirley Patterson and Jennifer Holt, Dean both wrote and performed the numbers

featured in these largely forgotten pictures. They included *Colorado Serenade* and *The Caravan Trail* (both 1946), *West To Glory* (1947) and *The Hawk of Powder River* (1948). He often found himself accompanied by the western harmony group Andy Parker and the Platinums.

In 1948, the year of his last PRC film, Dean enjoyed his greatest success as a songwriter when his fellow singing cowboy Jimmy Wakely took "One Has My Name, the Other Has My Heart" to the top of both the pop and country charts. Co-written by Dean with his wife, "Dearest", and a fellow tunesmith, Hal Blair, it proved an early and durable example of the "cheatin'" song and was covered magnificently by Jerry Lee Lewis in 1969.

Over the years Dean recorded for a number of record labels including Decca, Majestic, Mercury, Crystal, Sage and Sand, Shasta (owned by Jimmy Wakely) and Capitol. If few of his own recordings charted, the superb "On the Banks of the Sunny San Juan" (1941) and his "I Dreamed of a Hillbilly Heaven" (1955) remain classics.

Dean later became a mainstay of the western festivals that proliferate throughout the south-western United States and in 1983 was inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame, his voice still a reportedly rich and supple instrument into its ninth decade.

PAUL WADE

Edgar Dean Glosup (Eddie Dean), singer, songwriter, actor; born Posey, Texas 9 July 1907; married 1931 Lorene Donnelly (one son, one daughter); died Newhall, California 4 March 1999.

The Emir of Bahrain

YOUR OBITUARY of the Emir of Bahrain (by Adel Darwish, 8 March) contained some errors, writes Mansoor Al-Jamri. The Shia in Bahrain are not migrants from Iran. Instead, more than 90 per cent of them are the indigenous Arab people of Bahrain, known as Baharna. They have inhabited Bahrain for more

than 3,000 years and speak only Arabic. They are described – amongst many references – in the book *Personal Column* (1960) by Sir Charles Belgrave, who administered Bahrain between 1926 and 1957.

Second, it is not true that the majority of the 40 members of the Shura Council appointed by the

Emir in 1993 and then in 1996-97 were made up from the elected members of the 1973-75 National Assembly; instead there are only a handful.

Third, your writer explains the current political crisis in terms of frustrated children committing arson. He probably does not know about the series of petitions since

1992 calling for the restoration of parliament. These were sponsored by all sections of Bahrain society, not only the Shia. They preceded riots and any stone throwing.

The obituary photograph was not of Sheikh Isa, but of his son, and successor as Emir, Sheikh Hamad. We apologise for the error.

Handwritten signature: J. P. M. 1950

Joe DiMaggio

BASEBALL IS a sport which reveres its statistics, one in which numbers can transcend simple arithmetic to become a catechism of faith. For the believer, 406 signifies only one thing - Ted Williams's average in 1941, the last time anyone batted over 400 for a season. Henceforth, 70 will be forever shorthand for Mark McGwire's single season home run record. Or take 2,632, the number of consecutive games played by Cal Ripken Jr between 1983 and 1998, almost certainly never to be surpassed. And then there is 56. For the uninitiated, the figure is no more than part of the seven times table. For the baseball fan, however, it summons up at once Joe DiMaggio's hitting streak between mid-May and mid-July 1941, a record which also may never be broken.

Ripken, Williams, McGwire: all of them, like DiMaggio, iconic players, present or future Hall of Famers and as such guaranteed eternal veneration at baseball's temple at Cooperstown in upstate New York. But DiMaggio was something more. Once a decade or so American sport throws up a figure who helps define a generation. Babe Ruth of course, Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, Joe Louis, and today Michael Jordan. Joe DiMaggio unarguably belongs in this company. For his baseball prowess with the New York Yankees, he was known as "Joltin' Joe" or - a title which better captures his grace and fluency as a player - "The Yankee Clipper". But for a couple of decades, either side of 1950, his fame and popularity exceeded that of kings and presidents.

His marriage to Marilyn Monroe ranks up with the Lindbergh kidnapping and the O.J. Simpson case as a celebrity event for the ages. Singlehandedly Joe DiMaggio rescued the reputation of Italo-Americans from the depths to which Al Capone and his ilk had dragged it. After his retirement in 1951 his legend only grew. Ernest Hemingway used him as a symbol in *The Old Man and the Sea*. He became spokesman for a product, Mr Coffee, which became part of the national vocabulary. Paul Simon referred to him in the theme song from the hit *the Graduate*, in lines which became a catchphrase in faraway countries where baseball was unknown: "Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio? A nation turns its lonely eyes to you... But Joltin' Joe's left and gone away..."

Until the end, he was one of America's untouchables, a modest and unassuming man who occupied the function of secular saint, who would occasionally emerge from his Florida home to participate in a great baseball occasion. I saw him only once in the flesh, a slow-moving figure, his hair crinkly silver, on the night in September 1995 at Camden Yards in Baltimore when Ripken broke the previous consecutive games record. It had been previously held by the great Lou Gehrig, with whom DiMaggio had played in the Yankee line-up of the late 1930s. He made a brief speech, linking baseball's past and present. On a moving night, it was the most moving moment.

Joseph Paul DiMaggio Jr was born, the eighth of nine children, to Joseph and Rosalia DiMaggio, immigrants from Sicily who had settled in California. It was a baseball family; not only Joe but his brothers Vince and Dominic would also become major league players (though the family claimed its finest ballplayer was another brother, Tom, who instead became a crab fisherman like his father). In time-honoured tradition, Joe learned the rudiments of the game in the sandlots, before becoming an outstanding player at San Francisco Junior High School - even though there was no money to buy him a proper uniform.

On the recommendation of his brother Vince, he started with the city's minor league team, the San Francisco Seals in 1933, at the age of 17. His talent was immediately apparent, but he hit as sweetly as an angel. Within two years, he was snapped up by the most famous and successful team in baseball.



'The Yankee Clipper': DiMaggio was a statistical immortal

Hulton Getty

That year, though DiMaggio was suffering serious knee problems, the Yankees acquired his services for \$25,000 and five players, on the understanding that for two more years DiMaggio would remain with the Seals, honing his skills and gaining experience. By the time he moved to New York and the big time for the 1936 season, the shy but subtly self-confident newcomer was the most trumpeted rookie since the First World War. He did not disappoint.

In his first year, despite a nagging foot injury, the young centrefielder hit .323, and impressed not only with the bat but also for his vastly improved fielding, highlighted by a sensational catch in the Yankees' successful World Series campaign that year. In 1939 he set a career hitting mark of .341, and won the first of two successive American League batting titles. At the plate, he combined power and style, a majestic figure who regularly exceeded 30 home runs a season. Before he arrived, the Yankees had hit a barren spot; during his first seven years, they won the series five times. In 1941 occurred the feat which made him a statistical immortal.

The season had begun, by his standards, appallingly: a batting average of .177, in what DiMaggio called "the worst

slump of my life - I looked terrible. The harder you try, the worse it gets." Then everything changed. On 15 May he began to hit - and did so in every game until 17 July. Hitting a baseball safely is famously difficult: the best hitters manage it only three out of 10 times. Yet DiMaggio managed at least one hit in 56 games without a break. The previous mark of 44 had stood for 42 years, and DiMaggio's new record has not even been approached in more than half a century.

That year he won his second Most Valuable Player award. Willowy and dapperly handsome, the Yankees' idol had become a figure in New York society, voted one of the 10 best-dressed men in the United States. In 1939 he married Dorothy Arnold, a Hollywood starlet, who gave him a son, Joe DiMaggio III.

As with so many of his generation, DiMaggio's career was interrupted by the Second World War. He volunteered for service in February 1943, giving up his \$43,500 salary for \$50 a month as a private, serving in an air-force physical training programme. This interruption cost him three seasons, and perhaps a chance of cracking some of baseball's other records. But, when he reappeared in 1946, normal service was resumed.

In 1949, DiMaggio became baseball's first \$100,000-a-year man. That year he missed two months with a damaged heel, before returning to face the all-conquering Boston Red Sox. DiMaggio belted four home runs in three games, and an epic season ended with the Yankees catching the Sox for the AL championship, and going on to defeat the Brooklyn Dodgers in the World Series. 1 October 1949 was Joe DiMaggio Day at Yankee Stadium, when a man whose comeback had made him a national hero told 70,000 fans: "I want to thank the Good Lord for making me a Yankee." Never before or since, had baseball been more popular.

Adulation could not, however, erase the discomfort of constant bodily pain. During another shortened season in 1950, he none the less managed to hit .301, and that year, as each year between 1949 and 1953, New York again won the World Series. But DiMaggio had had enough. On 11 December 1951, after a final season disrupted by injury the Yankee Clipper announced his retirement.

As a player he had been a loner, liked and respected by never one but a few of his teammates. In the Yankees' clubhouse he was succeeded by Mickey Hatcher, an authentic hell-raiser and linchpin of yet another generation of championship teams. DiMaggio was meanwhile fated to a sporting afterlife of permanent celebrity.

His marriage to Dorothy Arnold had broken up in 1944 when he was in the military. In the early 1950s he met a rising and stunningly attractive young actress named Marilyn Monroe. After a whirlwind romance, they were married in 1954. The union was doomed from the outset; the retiring and private superstar of the sports arena could not cope with the synthetic, brash and intrusive world of Hollywood, and was jealous of the endless attention lavished upon his wife. After only nine months they were divorced. But the couple remained close. DiMaggio helped arrange medical treatment for Marilyn as her life disintegrated. When she died in 1962, it was he who organised her funeral. He blamed the Kennedy brothers, Jack and Bobby, each of them her lover, for hastening her death. Years later, when he met the then Senator Bobby Kennedy at a baseball function, DiMaggio refused even to shake RFK's proffered hand.

Thereafter he faded from the public limelight. But his name remained among the most instantly recognisable in America. He devoted himself to philanthropy and charities, including the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Florida. With the Yankees he kept in touch, throwing out the traditional first ball each season's opening day at Yankee Stadium, and whenever the club reached the World Series, becoming - if possible - more dignified with every passing year. But it is as a player he will be above all remembered, one of the finest in history and synonymous with baseball's truly golden age.

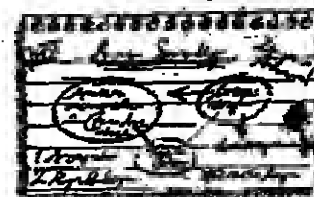
RUPERT CORNWELL

Joseph Paul DiMaggio, baseball player: born Martinez, California 25 November 1914; married 1939 Dorothy Arnold (one son; marriage dissolved 1944); 1954 Marilyn Monroe (marriage dissolved 1954); died Hollywood, Florida 8 March 1999.



DiMaggio's marriage to Marilyn Monroe was doomed. It lasted just nine months

Corbis



EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL NOTES

TONY DODD

Animal surgeons from outer space

ANIMALS COME very high up the British agenda. We love our pets, and we are sentimental about cute and cuddly farmyard animals. So it is surprising that we have made so little of a phenomenon involving attacks on our domestic and wild animals by an unknown and apparently insatiable predator.

Cows, horses, sheep, pigs, cats, deer, badgers, fuchs and even mice are being systematically butchered in a manner that appears, at first sight, to be ritualistic except that the method of carrying out the mutilation seems to be way ahead of any technology known to man.

The corpses are not the messy gory savaged remains of a natural predator kill. They are neat, clinically tidy, with a total blood loss from the animal yet without any signs of blood loss at the site of the wound or on the ground nearby; further, an astonishing catalogue of surgical procedures has been carried out on them. Internal organs have been removed through small cuts, which appear to have been sealed or cauterised. Sometimes the animal seems to have been sedated, and there is usually no sign of disturbance, not even the animal's own footprints, around the scene.

These strange deaths have been occurring not only in Britain, but all over the world. The only major study of them has been carried out in America, where an Emmy-

winning documentary, *A Strange Harvest*, was broadcast in 1980. It was made by Linda Moulton Howe, a respected journalist, who started her investigations when she heard of a few bizarre animal deaths. She surmised that the mutilations might be part of a secret government research programme, possibly monitoring pollution and contamination caused by radiation leak or accidental poison release. She was expecting to unmask a government cover-up.

Instead, she came to realise that, although the US government was aware of the deaths, it was not responsible for them. She reached the conclusion that the deaths are the work of alien visitors to this planet, who are carrying out medical experiments on animal organs.

How can anyone be sure that these deaths are not the work of vandals or animals? Pathology reports in the US have shown that the incisions in the flesh have been made with high heat, which cooked the haemoglobin at the edge of the wound. The cuts have a hardened edge, not consistent with the type of lasers we use today and besides, if lasers were being used, we would be looking at very sophisticated vandals indeed, able to transport power generators to the scenes of the deaths. As the bodies are often found in remote places, with no signs of

disturbance around them, this is unlikely.

The mutilations come in clusters, either with individual cases in the same area over a matter of weeks or more spectacularly, with several animal corpses being found together. Often these are animals which would never be together in nature such as sheep and foxes.

After a spate of sheep deaths in an area of the north-east coast of England, farmers rigged up infra-red cameras triggered by any movement in a particular field. They were positioned so that sheep moving about in the night would not fire them, but if anything taller than a sheep entered the field the cameras would record it. The following morning, they found another mutilated lamb, with the familiar neat holes in its body, the organs removed. But, when the films were developed, they showed only small white clouds on black backgrounds.

The one common factor with the mutilations is reports from farmers of strange glowing lights hovering in the air over the fields the night before. This suggests an explanation: the "night surgeons" are neither human nor animal, but come from one of the billions of stars in the countless galaxies beyond our Solar System.

Tony Dodd is the author of *Alien Investigator* (Headline, 11 March, £16.99)

Peaceful assembly was not unlawful

TUESDAY LAW REPORT

9 MARCH 1999

Director of Public Prosecutions v Jones and another
House of Lords (Lord Irvine of Lairg, Lord Chancellor, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde and Lord Hutton)
4 March 1999

meaning of section 14A(5) of the 1986 Act.
Edward Fitzgerald QC and Kier Starmer (Liberty, and Douglas & Partners) for the appellants; Victor Temple QC and Michael Butt (Crown Prosecution Service) for the respondent.

Lord Irvine LC said that it had been assumed for the purposes of the hearing in the Divisional Court that the grass verge constituted part of the public highway, and that the group was peaceful and did not constitute an obstruction or a public nuisance.

The central issue in the case turned on two interrelated questions: what were the "limits" of the public's right of access to the public highway at common law; and what was the particular purpose for which the public had a right to use the public highway.

The basis of the Divisional Court's decision, in broad terms, was the proposition that

the public's right of access to the public highway was limited to the right to pass and repass, and to do anything incidental or ancillary to that right. Peaceful assembly was not incidental to the right to pass and repass.

However, the law today should recognise that the public highway was a public place, on which all manner of reasonable activities might go on. Provided those activities were reasonable, did not involve the commission of a public or private nuisance, and did not amount to an obstruction of the highway unreasonably impeding the primary right of the general public to pass and repass, they should not constitute a trespass. Subject to those qualifications, therefore, there would be a public right of peaceful assembly on the public highway.

Lord Clyde said that a peaceful assembly which did not obstruct the highway did not necessarily constitute a trespassary assembly so as to constitute an offence where an order under section 14A(5) of the 1986 Act was in force.

If the purpose of the activity in question became the predominant purpose of the occupation of the highway, or if the occupation became more than reasonably transitional in terms of either time or space, then it might come to exceed the right to use the highway. Lord Hutton said that a peaceful and non-obstructive public assembly on a highway could, but would not always, constitute a reasonable user of the highway, and thus not be a trespass.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

IN MEMORIAM

MANFIELD: Peter. On your third anniversary, I love and miss you more than ever. Thank you for all your help over the last year, Luis.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries. In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER GAZETTE announcements are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

BIRTHDAYS

Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, President, Royal British Legion, 59; Mr Bill Beaumont, sports commentator, 47; Mr Andrew Bennett MP, 66; Dr Michael Brock, former Warden, St George's House, Windsor Castle, 79; M André Courrèges, couturier, 76; Sir Rosaleyn Cumming-Bruce, former Lord of Appeal, 87; Mr Bobby Fischer, chess player, 56; Mr John Golding, former trade union leader, 68; Maj-Gen John Groom, former director, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 70; Mr Neil Hamilton, former MP, 50; Professor Sir Donald Harrison, laryngologist, 74; Dr Thomas Johnston, former Principal, Heriot-Watt University, 72; Sir Norman Lindop, chemist and educational administrator, 78; Sir

Nicholas Monek, former Permanent Secretary, Department of Employment, 64; Sir Donald Rattee, High Court judge, 62; Professor Kenneth Robinson, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Hong Kong, 85; Mr Howard Shelley, pianist and conductor, 49; Mr Mickey Spillane, novelist, 81; Lord Thurlow, former Governor of the Bahamas, 87; Professor Sir David Weatherall, haematologist, 68; Mr David Willetts MP, 43.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky, composer, 1839; Ernest Bevin, statesman, 1881; Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, astronaut, 1934. Deaths: David Rizzio, musician and secretary to Mary, Queen of Scots, murdered

1566; George Burns (Nathan Birnbaum), comedian, 1996. On this day: Pope Gregory VII declared all married RC priests to be excommunicated, 1074; Louis-Philippe of France founded the French Foreign Legion, 1831. Today is the Feast Day of St Bossa, St Catharine of Bologna, St Dominic Savio, St Frances of Rome, St Gregory of Nyssa and St Pacianus.

LECTURES

British Museum: Helen Glaister, "Representations of Women in China", 11.30am; Lesley Fitton, "Women in Bronze Age Greece", 2.30pm. Zoological Society, London NW1: Professor J. Altman and Professor I. Newton: "Only Time Will Tell: the value of long-term studies", 5.30pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen holds an investiture at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh, President, chairs a meeting of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee at Buckingham Palace; and, as Patron, attends the London Federation of Clubs for Young People Lunch at Tallows Chancellors' Hall, London EC4. The Duke of Kent, President, Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, addresses the Nato 50th Anniversary Conference, at the Banqueting House, London SW1; and attends the RUSI 50th Anniversary Conference Dinner, Lancaster House, London SW1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

MALCOLM ROE, of Hove, has been indicted by the council to stop cording. Any more of it, and he's in the jug. Mr Roe's crime is neither, as Johnson defined it, to "commute wool with a piece of wood" nor, in Thomas Shelton's 1612 phrase, to "be corded and purged of certain base things". On the contrary. In a

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE card, 11.

usage absent from the OED, he put tart's adverts in telephone kiosks: such droll invitations as those in which the phrase bound over has

nothing to do with keeping the peace. It's all a question of definition. Others still curd: I dialled 01273 XXXXXX and asked a startled, laughing woman if she was curious of the suns now commanded by one who has done more than curd in a kiosk - Monica Lewinsky. "No, not at all - good luck to her!"

What a woman's got to do

Pushy, ballsy, mumsy, frilly, frumpy: the attributes required by women to succeed in the workplace.

That's what surveys say, so it must be true, mustn't it?

By Ann Treneman

It's a confusing time for women who want to get ahead at work. "Pushy Women Don't Make it to the Top" screams one headline. Evidently, to get promoted women need to be "cheerful, self-confident, motherly". This has me searching through the cupboard for my apron. But no sooner have I knotted the ties than I read something completely different. "If you really want to be successful, you have to adopt a masculine approach of being pushy and dominant. In short, you have to walk on dead bodies," says the next survey. Right. Apron off. Armour on. Then comes yet another survey on the subject, by the Industrial Society. "The writing is on the wall for the macho managers," comments one news report.

Well, all I can say is that it is nice to get out of that armour. At least I now know why I always carry around such a huge handbag. It's the only way to cope with having to change my identity so regularly. What a choice: pushy, ballsy, mumsy, frilly, frumpy! But, handbag aside, what really is going on here? Why are there so many surveys, with so many different results? Truly, do any of them really know what they are talking about?

It's a subject we cannot get enough of. The experts say that we have become obsessed with it for the simple reason that more women are at work than ever before, and more of them want careers, not just jobs. This is the Sexual Revolution at the Coffee Machine and, even though it's been going on for some time, we are still in chaos over what it all means.

For years we've been saying that everyone is equal, and that it was only a matter of time before this was reflected at work. But now we have had to admit that we were wrong.

"We have finally given ourselves permission to look at how men and women are different," says Liz Cook, a senior consultant for the Industrial Society. "We have had 20 years of equality legislation and affirmative action, and it hasn't really worked. What we've really got is that men and women are different and unequal."

This has thrown up a whole new set of questions. What are female personality traits? How do they fit into the male-dominated workplace? Should women change? Should the workplace change?

"Maybe," says Ms Cook. "By nature women aren't designed to be in the boardroom as it is today. That doesn't mean they won't be in tomorrow's, though."

But tomorrow isn't in this year's budget planning session, and firms insist that they want more women at the top today, especially now that such female-friendly skills as listening and mentoring are all the rage. But the reality is that only 1 per cent of executive directors on corporate boards are women. "The figures on this are pathetic," says Sue Vinnicombe, of Cranfield School of Management.

Clearly, the situation is grave. Everyone agrees that something must be done - and so far that something has been to conduct a survey (make that a dozen). Press reports present each report as saying something completely different from the one before. But what is behind the headlines? Surely there must be some wisdom in all this survey lunacy? I decided to deconstruct the



Full armour or the mumsy oven glove? You've got to take those tough decisions, surveys say

Hulton Getty

most recent three surveys, and the results were instructive.

Take the Industrial Society survey that concluded that the days of the macho manager are numbered. It turns out that this survey did not talk to managers at all. Instead it concentrated on the views of what it calls "followers", but what you and I would call underlings.

Not surprisingly, these underlings liked in their leaders such qualities as honesty, trust and humility. It seems that these are seen as female attributes; ergo, the conclusion that macho is out, female is in. Sounds great. The only problem is that this is really just a report on what employees wish were true. It has nothing to do with reality.

That is probably just as well. At least, that

is the only possible conclusion that can be drawn when looking at the results of another survey, conducted by Tuvia Melamed, a psychologist. It paints the real workplace as being awash with macho managers, who eat testosterone for breakfast and never talk when they can shout. Here the only successful woman is nothing short of a dominatrix. Dr Melamed is embarrassed about this. He realises that his results are politically incorrect.

"But the successful women did say they really had to be more male than the men," he said. "They were very, very tough and had to forget the caring, sensitive side of their personalities. Many compared themselves to Margaret Thatcher."

We don't want even to think about where that handbag will take us - and so on to the

details of the survey. It was carried out over a period of four years at Anglia Business School. It examined personality profiles of 1,243 British managers (949 men, 294 women) using something called the 16PF form 5. They were compared with the results obtained from "normal" British adults.

The results show that female managers' scores were closer to those of their male counterparts than those in the comparison group. When you look closely at the numbers, though, you can see that although there is a pattern, it really does not seem to be of the kind of proportions that merit comparison with Margaret Thatcher. Dr Melamed points out that there were also follow-up interviews. He assures me that he is not mistaken. "I wish that it were different," he says.

Well it can be. That is what is so great



about the world of surveys. Enter Peter York, style guru and management consultant. He is the man behind the survey that says that pushy women don't get to the top. His company, SRU Consultancy, conducted in-depth interviews with 16 women at the very top of their professions. It's a small survey but, as he points out, it's a small base group. But can it really be true? Do we need to don aprons and stop being pushy if we want to get to the top? What does it all mean? I wouldn't admit to being pushy (God forbid) but I did want to get straight to the point.

Me: Should I cease to be bossy, then?

Mr York: Well, how bossy are you?

Me: You aren't answering my question.

Mr York: It's quite a difficult one. What we were saying was very simple. This small group of women do not manifest the style that people would expect...

Me: Should I be mumsy and kind, then?

Mr York: We were not saying, be mumsy and kind. There are a variety of manoeuvres that women have used to get ahead that now look redundant and archaic. One was to be a pretend man. Another was to be the office vamp. That's very dated-stamped.

Me: What about the survey by Dr Melamed that says that we have to be pretend men?

Mr York: I would have liked to have seen the data. I think the fundamental thing is that they are talking about a different set of human beings.

Me: Can you see why women like me are confused?

Mr York: I can. But I do think you should persevere.

What is really needed is a survey of the surveys. It is clear that these three are different mainly because of whom they interviewed, and what means they used. But they were not comparing apples and oranges as much as, perhaps, apples, pomegranates and pomes de terre.

It is possible that all three are essentially true: followers want leaders who are not macho, female managers act tougher in a male-dominated company, and women who have shattered the glass ceiling can no longer remember possessing even a shard's worth of pushiness.

Mr York suspects that many of the women at the very top are in denial, or have just forgotten about their early struggles. And he points out that they see the women ten years younger as being very different to themselves. "They see them as narrower, more obsessive and so concerned about career as to miss the substance of what they are doing. The younger women want a lot of it. They want to be part of a wolf pack. They are fantastically successful, and they want their partner to be, too."

I panic at the thought of having to find a wolf costume as well as an apron and all that dominatrix gear. It's a relief to call Sheila Wild, of the Equal Opportunities Commission, who says that who gets ahead depends as much on the structure of the workplace as an individual's traits. "Oh, ignore the advice," she says. "Everyone has their own personality and temperament and you can only do what you can do. In some workplaces being mumsy works; in others it's more masculine. There are no hard-and-fast rules."

She says that more and more women are voting with their feet anyway, and setting up their own businesses. I'm sure there will be a survey on that soon.

THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

36. WOOD FIRES
BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

I AM the urban equivalent of a stubble burner. You will know my street on a bitter winter's day. It is the one with a whiff of wood smoke, reminiscent of a Cotswold village. Catch the smell and imagine drinking pints of Speckled Hen in old pubs while watching the rugby on Saturday afternoons. Come inside and you will find a roaring log fire. If the chimney hasn't been swept lately, there will be a smoky room that leaves your clothes smelling as though you spent the evening singing "Kumbaya" with the happy clappers. You will certainly forget that you are in inner-city Hackney, where the only illicit smoke you normally encounter is dope.

That's the trouble with real fires around here. You're not supposed to have them. You are meant to be satisfied with smoking old smokeless fuel that comes in regulation-size lumps. In the heavily bounded life of the city, sending your fumes over to your next-door neighbours is considered as impolite as encouraging your tomat to spray their front door step. Smokeless



The poor man's Aga

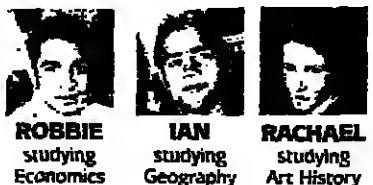
fuel simply does not have that rural authenticity essential for those of us who live in shoeboxes, but who imagine ourselves in a country pile. That fire is the poor man's Aga.

I caught the bug young. As a child of the three-day week in the early Seventies, I still pray for power cuts and fantasise about burnt sausages cooked over an open fire. My dad is another evangelist. As children, when we returned from Ireland on holidays and everyone else's car was stuffed with booze, he filled our boot with turf. Our street smelled like a sodden hamlet in the Aran Islands. Sadly, they don't sell turf here. In any case, I couldn't support the stripping out of the Irish bogs and all those spring flowers and heather. So wood has to do.

There are plenty of downsides to the illicit fire. Asthma, for example, and the endless trips to the petrol station log pile to fuel the little monster. However, the joys are many. Of course, it's illegal, but that is part of the attraction. A proper fire is a friend, better to look at than the telly. Who, with any sense of romance, could resist lying on the floor in the dark beside the dying embers and that empty bottle of Jameson?

How to dress in Manchester, if you're a student

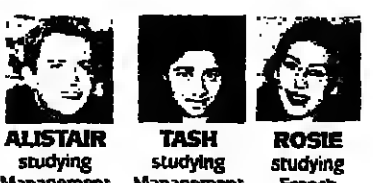
The way to spot Mancunians from a distance? They're the ones who look smart and strut. Unlike our chums at the university. By Cayte Williams



ROBBIE studying Economics IAN studying Geography RACHAEL studying Art History



LEONA was studying Maths DANI studying Biology DAVID studying Management



ALISTAIR studying Management TASH studying Management ROSIE studying French

SO WHAT does the modern student wear? And with which anthropological tribes does he or she choose to identify? Ian has a sort of urban hippy image: long hair in pony-tail, necklace, jeans and trainers. David is more eccentric, while Robbie is immaculately dressed in polo-necks and jackets. Only Alistair has been in the sartorial wilderness - until now.

"We call him Uncle Alfie," says Tash, "on account of his corduroy trousers, old-fashioned leather jacket and wavy hair." But when he went clubbing last week, his friends hardly recognised him. Now his hair is blond and spiky, and the cords have been ditched in favour of combat trousers and a black T-shirt. He's even lost weight. "He looks much better," observes Leona, "but he still can't dance."

David and Robbie are both rather dapper. "Style comes

from within, but clothes make you look better," waxes Robbie, who has somehow been influenced by Roger Moore. "I love that classic, early Seventies James Bond look. I hate labels that are in your face. Firetrap and Quicksilver are pretty cool brands, but I don't think much of Ralph Lauren because everyone's got that little polo shirt on down the pub." In fact he spends nearly twice as much on clothes as any of the girls.

When it comes to glam, David's got it sussed. "University will be the only time in my life when I will be allowed to experiment with my hair," says the man who loves glitter. When he first came to college he was painfully shy, so as soon as he got the hang of being extrovert it went to his head. "My hair's not really about expressing myself," he explains. "It's more the fact

THIS STUDENT LIFE



SPRING TERM, WEEK 9 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

that I just get bored with having the same hairstyle so I just do something different and dye it another colour."

Youth culture is now about subtle differences, not tribal uniforms. The days of punks,

rockers and Brit Pop boys seem gone forever. "If a girl is wearing Kookai or Morgan you know she's pretty rich," explains David. "And then there are the rude boys with their Camper jackets, baggy jeans and caps. But none of it is really obvious."

"That Brit Pop thing was really pretentious. Now it's cool not to be influenced by any one trend." So does he enjoy dressing up? "I spend quite a lot on clothes and I've got a bit of a shoe fetish. I like laced, square-toed ones with a little bit of heel on them. I'm quite individual. I don't really care what others think."

Ian reckons his almost waist-length hair is less of a style statement, more of a dare. "I had a tragic basin haircut before I came to university," he says. "I've kept my hair long because my friends said, 'University is the only chance

you'll get to grow it. When you get a job, you'll have to get it all chopped off.' So I've kept it. Now it's part of me."

He's also hates designer labels. "I bought an Yves Saint Laurent shirt for £80, and it's falling apart," he says indignantly, "and something similar from B&S which is still amazing." He reckons you can spot Mancunians a mile off. "You can tell who's a student in this town because they're nearly always scruffy, and you can tell people who come from Manchester because they have this walk. It's like a strut."

Rosie and Tash don't seem to own a skirt between them and don't have the time or money to care about fashion. "Leona's got a gorgeous figure," says Rosie, "so she's more fashionable than either Tash or me. I don't wear skirts ever, and I don't wear heels. If I'm going to the pub I'll just wear what I

put on when I woke up. Clothes are just not the big deal that they used to be. If I had £100 to spend I'd shop in Warehouse or Oasis, but most of the time I'm in bargain shops."

"I'm always worried about my stomach," says Tash, patting her tummy under a padded jacket. She's just grateful that her tomboy look is back in style. "Clothes are less glamorous than they used to be when girls wore little tops, mini-skirts or pedal pushers to House and Garage clubs. I never felt 100 per cent in them because there were no pockets and they weren't very useful. If I was tall and skinny I would wear more fluffy clothes. But now there's so much more of a drum 'n' bass scene in Manchester, combat trousers and trainers are fashionable again. And they're so much more practical." Prada and Gucci, eat your heart out.

JP 11/10/150

Royal Ballet's faux pas

Dance Bites tries to build regional audiences for modern dance. But is it really working? By Nadine Meisner

After years in the doldrums, the Royal Ballet are bristling with public optimism. They have a luxurious new home waiting for them in the redeveloped Royal Opera House; a go-getting American executive director, Michael Kaiser, famed for his nifty *pas de deux* work in raising collapsed ballet companies back on their feet; and New Labour status as reformed toffs, flinging open their doors to your average person on the street. Perhaps Kaiser is indeed so adept he can get money to pour out of taps. But he will also need to sort out the Royal Ballet's many other problems: their inaccessibility to most of the tax-paying country; their stuffy image; and the shortage of talent to re-graph the future repertoire.

Now in its sixth season, Dance Bites is the Royal Ballet's attempt to address these problems. Each year, for a fortnight, the company divides into two and performs in medium-sized theatres round the country. This replaces their previous, exorbitantly expensive touring to large cities, with full company, orchestra and stage sets. Dance Bites was also conceived as a cost-effective way of killing two birds with one stone: not only to travel outside London, but to encourage younger choreographers by showcasing their work. In the estimation of the company's administrative director, Anthony Russell-Roberts, it has been a success. In my estimation, it has been ineffectually implemented and counter-productive.

Superficially, Dance Bites is the plucky ingenious scheme of an organisation strapped for cash. And it is preferable to the earlier custom of flinging young choreographers on to the grand Royal Opera House stage, to make their mistakes in a blaze of publicity. But from what I have seen, audiences for Dance Bites have dwindled. Past programmes have often featured work not ready to be shown to a paying public, while the glossy trappings of live music and stage design looked inappropriately extravagant. This present tour is stricter in choice of choreographers, and more sober in presentation. But I still doubt that it will win audiences to the cause of modern ballet.

This is because of a mismatch between the product and the consumer. Russell-Roberts says: "It would be an insult to regional audiences to suggest they were less sophisticated than in London." As someone from a village in Cumbria, I agree. Moreover, during the past few decades, the most avant-garde choreographers have regularly toured the regions. "We are aiming at a public who would appreciate new choreography, leavened with a masterwork like Ashton's *Monotones*," he says. "We state clearly what the programmes are."

But the modern-minded audiences, who buy tickets to see Siobhan Davies, stay away from Dance Bites. What Dance Bites attracts are the blue-rinses and the ballet-pupil bun heads who expect recognisable classicism, technical bravura, and melody. They expect this because they see the name Royal Ballet.

True, the publicity says "Dance Bites" in bigger lettering, but that doesn't prevent individual theatres from plastering large "Royal Ballet on Tour" stickers across the posters. So the right audience doesn't come and the company's marketing has failed to redress this. Given that many of the towns have colleges and universities, where are the students?

I saw this year's two Dance Bites programmes in Northampton and Cambridge. In Northampton, the familiar item was a revival of David Bintley's *Galanteries*, a tastefully calibrated suite of dances to Mozart. In Cambridge, everything was overshadowed by Ashton's *Monotones*, as seamlessly serene, pared down and strange as its Satie music. Darcey Russell's long, poised lines folded and stretched beautifully in the plastic of the second trio to *Trois Gymnopédies*.

Russell led Mark Baldwin's *Towards Poetry*, performing a quirky *pas de deux* with Nigel Burley and a long solo that displayed her yawning jump. Her deliberate, challenging air of narcissism slotted into the piece's eccentric atmosphere, but what significance lay behind it all remained a secret between Baldwin and his composer, Julian Anderson.

William Tuckett's *Love's Fool*, in which Luke Heydon's modern-day Cupid gives office romance a helping push, was entirely clear thanks to the programme note, although the overall effect was two-dimensional. Much of the movement concentrated on the feet, so it was frustrating that these were hidden from many by Cambridge's appalling sightlines.

After *Galanteries* in Northampton, the radicalism of Cathy Marston's *Tidelives* was a shock. Choreography, design and music confront each other prismatically. Peter Sculthorpe's score superimposes layers, and mirrors reflect the dancers' silhouettes. Sometimes they just stand around, sometimes they move in eddying and interfacing patterns, echoing the back projection of coloured liquids.

Jonathan Cope and Chloe Davies perform an entrancing *pas de deux* of unexpected but beautiful lifts which ends the piece abruptly and inconsequentially as if Marston couldn't think of a way of rounding off. Ashley Page's trio *Soft Underbelly* went through the variations of combining one woman and two men fluently and unremarkably.

Michael Corder's *Masquerade* offered no surprises either, although it had an articulate freshness and exuberance, enhanced by Anthony Ward's ravishing acid-drop costumes. Using Stravinsky's suite from *Pulcinella*, Corder's plotless dances retain a sense of the *commedia dell'arte* characters. This brings nice choreographic contrasts and allows Peter Abegglen and Mara Galeazzi to be bright and teasing as Harlequin and Columbine.

This year's Dance Bites focuses more on proven choreographers. But even established talents can produce misses. The task of watching experiments *en masse* can make music seem attractive. This heavy-duty programming is best suited to a small, low-profile performing space where the odds can come and go discreetly. And the good news is that this will happen, with the Royal Opera House's new studio theatre.

Gossip claims that this is the last Dance Bites. Russell-Roberts says he doesn't yet know but if medium-scale touring is to continue, the Royal Ballet should take half a leaf from the English National Ballet's book. ENB's artistic director, Derek Deane believes in pragmatism. "I see them as an opportunity, actually, to increase audiences by reaching people who might not normally go to the bigger theatres, but who are prepared to go to smaller ones." Catchily entitled *Tour de Force*, his two programmes, (starting later this month), reverse the Dance Bites balance by splicing familiar extracts with a dash of the new - in both cases provided by the company's Christopher Hampson.

With a smaller subsidy than the Royal Ballet, the ENB has tighter box-office considerations but *Tour de Force* certainly attracts full houses. "I want to create audiences, not alienate them. You've got to mix and match programmes to entertain as well as challenge," is Deane's recipe. "Programmes of ballets they've never heard of are not going to get people in. You've got to create interest, not use the occasion as a glorified choreographic workshop." He denies that he is referring to Dance Bites but I, for one, don't believe him.

It's a mismatch of product and consumer: of experimental dance and a largely blue-rinse audience

Dance Bites tours to Cornwall, High Wycombe, Dorford and Woking. *Tour de Force* runs from 22 Mar to 10 Apr



Darcey Russell, centre, in Frederick Ashton's 'Monotones'

Laurie Lewis

Hall to play for

POP

LYNDEN DAVID HALL
BRIGHTON CENTRE

WHETHER playing mean blues or boogie on the guitar, or singing his own songs about carnal love, God or absent fathers, Lynden David Hall is excellent. With a repertoire like that, he would be garlanded with praise if he were a white American in the alternative country mould, and signed to an independent label called something like Dog Do. Instead, he's a black British soul act on EMI. Not only is his music written in a foreign language - that of American R'n'B - but he is also the latest in a long line of Brit-souls who have had to deal with premature comparisons with the great, and usually, the dead, of the past. Despite releasing two killer singles from his superb debut album of last year, *Medicine 4 My Pain*, Hall's success was still not assured - the album was even repackaged after the first cover was deemed to be too dark.

This opening date of his first major national tour was so good, however, that he looks sure to prevail in the end. With a nifty four-piece band, two backing singers, and tunes from the album already familiar to most of the audience, Hall was brilliant from the very first note, yet just got better with each number. Though his niche is Nu Classic Soul in the manner of Maxwell, D'Angelo and Chico DeBarge, Hall is the equal of any of them.

He gains extra credibility from his musicianship - he wrote, produced or co-produced and performed almost everything on the album himself - and his love-god credentials, which are substantial. Tall, rangy and shaven of head, Hall more than looks the part, but he's also sufficiently charming and good-humoured not to threaten too many boyfriends. When he swaps his electric guitar for an acoustic, he also reveals a new persona, projecting an endearing vulnerability on songs such as the beautiful "Do Angels Cry" and "Crescent Moon". A wonderfully lubricious version of what should have been his hit, "Sexy Cinderella", ended the show. All in all, Hall was fantastic. He could be the new Al Green. Whoops.

PHIL JOHNSON

Tu 18-19 March, when he plays London's Shepherd's Bush Empire (0171-771 2000). A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

You know when you've been tango'd

GIDON KREMER'S scholarly but passionate interpretations of the "new tango" music of Astor Piazzolla (1921-92) have been a runaway success. The CDs and tours appeal to a need for "light music" with intellectual depth, for "art music" with emotional content.

Tuesday's concert had a more classical, chamber-music ambience than the more gutsy *Hommage à Piazzolla* or *El Tango* (or the composer's own recordings). The evening began with the leader playing solo, followed by some trio pieces and then the full quartet. Yet despite the absence of piano and double bass, Kremer's colleagues generated a remarkable amount of rhythmic heat in "Adios Nonino" (which the composer's band,

CLASSICAL

TANGO!
KREMERATA QUARTET
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
SOUTH BANK CENTRE
LONDON

with violinist Fernando Suarez Paz, recorded on the *Live in Wien* album) and the beguiling "Milonga per Tre." This featured taut Lithuanian dancer, Egle Spokaitis, thin as a whip in green culottes, spotlighted while the musicians played from the corners of the stage.

Argentine bandoneon player, Marcelo Nisinman, opened the second set with a heart-rending solo version of "Oblivion", immediately followed by a couple of duets with Kremer; sentimental con-

versations full of nostalgia for a collective memory nobody there could have possibly experienced. The dramatic "Jeanne y Paul" required Kremer to counter Nisinman's wheezy beast of an instrument with wild noises and percussive clicks from his guarnieri.

Despite Kremer's declared passion for the music, one sensed he was having fun with the exaggerated emotions of Piazzolla's more cheesy back catalogue. Since *nuevo tango* = tango + tragedy + comedy + *kilombo* (whorehouse), as Piazzolla himself informed us on *Zero Hour*, this might be an example of cheap music ageing gracefully into a happy long after-life: what looked like nicotine stains turn out to be gold leaf.

For the final section of the concert, all five musicians took to the stage to perform *Five Sensations* for bandoneon and quartet, the stunning late 1980s collaboration commissioned by the Lincoln Center for the Kronos quartet, with Piazzolla himself. Kremer's reading of this was faultless, but the star was Nisinman, an enigmatic half-smile playing around his lips as he coaxed chromatic impossibilities from the tangle of buttons and fingers at his left hand and lower, throater lines from the right, occasionally exchanging some private joke by eye contact with the pretty viola player.

The sensations of the five movements - "Asleep", "Loving", "Anxiety", "Despair", and "Fear" - were countered by the



Gidon Kremer

smiles and concentrated expressions of pleasure on the faces of the audience in the packed hall. Mood swings, but no depression. Kremer's bitter-sweet solo melodies in "Despair" sailed over the bandoneon chords before the

lower strings entered for a glorious chorale, and "Fear" concluded the recital on an up tempo burst of energy. Superb intonation, dynamics and timing, plus the ensemble's easy virtuosity, made this feel like the last night of a tour, rather than the second.

And how exciting to hear an unamplified band sounding this good in the QEH acoustic - the internal balance of strings and bandoneon was a masterclass of musical mixing. For the encore, all six performers returned for Nisinman's extraordinary melodic arrangement of "Adios Nonino", with virtuosic solos from Kremer and dancer Spokaitis, haunting the stage like a green, Giacometti ghost. Sensational.

JOHN L. WALTERS

The voice of the 19th century

IN WHAT sounds like a neo-classicist's manifesto, Goethe wrote that "only in limitation is mastery revealed, and law alone can give us freedom", so how he might have reacted to Hugo Wolf's ardently melodramatic setting of Hilgon's famous "Kennst du das Land" is a matter for speculation. Like many other songs in Saturday evening's QEH recital, devoted to settings of lyrics from his novel *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*, it went far beyond the poet's narrow vision of the proper partnership of words and music.

Yet whatever the limits of his

CLASSICAL

GOETHE WEEKEND
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
SOUTH BANK CENTRE
LONDON

musical judgement, his famous vanity might well have been touched by the artistry shown in devotion to his texts, as performed by the soprano Solveig Kringsborn, the baritone Thomas Allen and the pianist Roger Vignoles, with Samuel West reading from the novel. If literature's function is to uncover hidden springs of feeling in its readers, then Schubert's

impassioned musical response to "Wer nie sein Brot mit Tränen", or Schumann's to "Heiss mich nicht reden", must count as important documents in their composer's own biographies.

With Schumann, especially, it was a case of richness of accompaniment, splendidly realised by Vignoles in the spread chords of the harpist's songs. As for richness of harmony, that belonged not just to Schubert, Schumann and Wolf, but also to Liszt. In his versions of "Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh", and "Freudvoll und leidvoll", the floating tonality that in his

symphonic poems can sometimes lead to the impression of introductions to introductions, became a deftly controlled expressive tool of which even Goethe might have approved. But in many ways the laurels went to the settings by Carl Loe, in his "Gutmann und Gutweib", the Bachian accompaniment brilliantly directed the extensive tale-telling to its punch line. And for singers, that version of "Erlkönig" must surely offer more dramatic breaks than Schubert's.

The second instalment of the South Bank's Goethe: Life, Love and Music weekend

began with Beethoven's *Egmont* overture, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment agile and buoyant under Mark Elder's direction.

From pageantry, the mood changed to that of despair then consolation in the flowing lines of Brahms's *Alto Rhapsody*, the men of the Philharmonia Chorus quietly supporting the nobly rendered vocal line of the mezzo Jane Irwin.

With the tenor Justin Laverder the men returned towards the close of the second half, singing the "chorus mysticus" that sublimely ends Liszt's neglected *A Faust Symphony*,

surely a necessary part of any celebration of Goethe's unique achievement. Thanks to Elder's complete grasp of the work both in flesh and spirit, its longeurs were scarcely noticed. What impressed were the quality of playing, fine woodwind solos in the Gretchen movement, and fierce, Mephistophelean unison strings in the last.

How revolutionary this piece must have seemed to its first listeners in the 1850s. To paraphrase Stravinsky on another subject, surely a solar plexus of 19th-century music.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

ROBERT HANKS ON TV

'The Grimleys' sadly assumed that there's something inherently funny about a Midlands accent

PAGE 18

"Ostrovsky's marvellous work has the exuberant madness of the best Russian comedy."

"Anthony Page's wonderfully funny production"

"Frances de la Tour is in top form"

The Forest

A comedy by Alexander Ostrovsky
first time revived by Alan Ayckbourn

Lyttelton: Thurs 11 & Fri 12 March at 7.30pm, Sat 13 March at 2.15pm & 7.30pm & continuing

Royal National Theatre
Box Office 0171-452 3000
www.nt-online.org

Sponsored by
DIAGEO



Front cover: Mellon Bruce Fund/obverse: Museum of Modern Art, New York;

Posterity time. Fifty years ago, Jackson Pollock was painting his masterpieces. A few years after that, it was all over. A couple more, and he was dead in a car crash at 44. Dead, and already great. His greatness, first put in currency by a 1948 feature in *Time* magazine – “Is he America’s greatest living artist?” – had hung around Pollock ever since like a heavy cloud. And in this country, at least, the legend has lasted without the work having been seen too often. The Tate’s retrospective is the first major show here for two generations. Might it clear the air a little?

There are grounds for suspicion, after all. Pollock's peculiar greatness is partly a historical thing. The conditions were propitious. Here was the United States: just won the war, richest nation, top of the free world, supremely confident. Whatever artistic talent it produced was going to benefit from this dominance; to be given – if remotely possible – the status of world leader.

Within US culture there was a role waiting, too. Great American Artist: position vacant. There'd been the Great American Novel (Melville) and Poem (Whitman) and Music (Jazz). But in the visual arts, there'd been no body of work that convincingly broke free or ahead of the European tradition. The frontier of modern art was still Paris, not New York.

You don't have to deal in active conspiracy theories here (even though "The CIA invented Abstract Expressionism" is a perfect charmer). Circumstances were such that the next big thing in American art was likely to get very big indeed. What's more, Pollock's work fitted the bill so well, its temperament was free, raw, expansive, commanding, and it had pioneer spirit. But also it was – really was – lightly original.

The novelty of the paintings Pollock made, in a barn out the back of his Long Island home, was partly in how they looked, and partly in how they

were done. Their compositions were "overall": they had no image, of course, and no governing design or obvious focal points. They abandoned handiwork. Dripping his paint from sticks and old brushes, Pollock substituted gravity for touch. The relationship between painter and painting was changed. The canvas was laid on the floor. It became an arena for action. What developed on the surface wasn't so much a picture as a record of bodily movements.

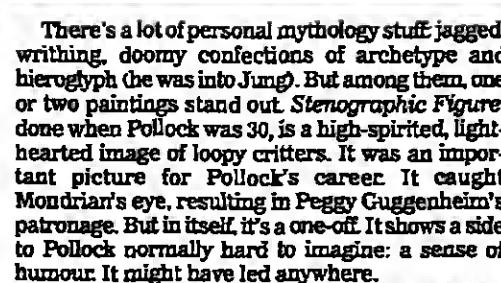
That's the textbook story, so to speak. But to praise an art, 50 years on, in terms of its originality as such, isn't quite going to work. Originality is a relay race that nobody wins. One breakthrough gives way to another. Pollock's influence has been wide. For instance, the performance side of his action painting led into performance art. But that's hardly what's good about Pollock's painting.

And what we see in the classic Pollock paintings – works such as *Lavender Mist* and *One* – is an ambition that exceeds mere innovation. They're astonishing spectacles, swarming and exploding before our eyes. They're paintings that want to be more than paintings; that want to slip the surly bonds of art. He didn't want just to be ahead of the game. He wanted out. For a short while, he was.

What we're talking about, though, is a short while. A retrospective prompts an obvious question. Is it going to be a long build-up to a final breakthrough, rich in anticipations and approaches, but with all the earlier work only interesting for what it promises? Or is it going to be a full, if brief, career?

promises? Or is it going to be a full, if brief, career? It was clearly a struggle. The Pollock myth emphasises the wild, violent, drunken, bobo outsider. But the progress of this exhibition suggests another kind of individualism: a good, work-ethical, rags-to-riches story. Talent-wise, Pollock started poor. The earliest paintings are turbulent art-school effusions, and the turbulence continues as Pollock gets heav-

and the turbulence continues as Pollock gets heavily influenced by European modern art (Picasso, Miró, André Masson), and goes on being influenced – and figurative – for quite a time.



Not that the other work of the early Forties shows anything like a clear trajectory. It's all over the place. There are some works which, in hindsight, seem to look ahead – such as the huge, long painting called *Mural* (1943) he did for Guggenheim. I don't myself get a big kick out of this acknowledged milestone, but its strongly rhythmic, highly elaborated calli-

raphy of dancing stick men can be seen as pointing to an overall abstraction. And *Eyes in the Heat* (1946), a very exciting field of swirling energies, with the paint delivered straight from the tube, seems on the very brink. But at the same time, there are pictures that declare he'll never get Picasso out of his system.

And then the dripping starts. It starts uncertainly. And though within a year or two it's reached perfection, these first drip pictures, very hit-and-miss, let you see what this perfection involved - and see, too, what the work looked like to many of its first beholders. It looked like a mess, or again like a pretty mess. Quite often with the early ones, you really do get wild mess-making, and it's not interesting. Quite often, too, you get a pleasingly distressed surface texture. And both these impressions are worth holding onto.

Pollock sometimes wondered if what he was doing now was art. His critics, pro and anti, have sometimes thought not. The autistic swar doodles and decor — “apocalyptic wallpaper” was the great put-down. The pros saw the pure, unmediated expressions of body or soul; a painting made in a trance state, with Pollock’s unconscious or impulses marked down on the canvas. Obviously, this was partly what Pollock wanted. He wanted a spontaneous painting that bypassed the burghl symbolism of his earlier psychodramas and came straight from the deep psyche. He wanted pictures that — like some decoration — looked unmade and unauthorized, as if they had just developed of themselves. But the paradox of his achievement is that these things could only be done with a lot of artistry.

Pollock's act was a careful balancing act, a matter of holding things in tension, fine-tuning so as to keep all possibilities open. The classic paintings have multiple intimations, none of which is quite suppressed, none of which definitely arrives. There are — despite the "over all" talk — hints of an underlying structure, perhaps something quasi-figurative

and deeply buried in all the busyness. There are hints, too, of infinitely complex patterning. There are hints of complete chaos and randomness. There's finally a strong entropic tendency towards an absolutely inert homogeneity. And all these aspects shift one into another.

The result is work that's the untraceable and ungraspable. It offers inexhaustible interest to the eye. It can be contemplated endlessly. It always offers something new. And if you're content for that to be what painting does, you can hardly ask for more. If, on the other hand, you want to give meaning to this intensely absorbing experience, you're taking a risky step. The great Pollocks have an unlimited appetite for significance. They gobble it up and ask for more. Every big feeling in the world can attach itself to them. It's another thing that made them such excellent candidates for greatness.

These paintings last, not for their innovations, but because they still stick in art's craw. Pollock's most memorable saying was his reply to being asked, why he didn't work more from nature: "I am nature." It needn't have been a megalomaniac boast. It was no more than the literal, partial truth. Who isn't? His achievement was to turn art into natural history, to make human artefacts that have the fascination of natural phenomena; blank wonders, endlessly interpretable.

It has a limit. And having reached it, Pollock rather impressively stopped - treated it as an aberration almost. At the start of the Fifties, he (so to speak) re-wound seven years, went back to much the same kinds of picture he was doing before the drip-work started (some figurative, some less so), fell under the same old influences, did some more very interesting one-offs such as *The Deep*, got too drunk to paint at all, and crashed his car. There are many rather spurious romantic tendencies in Pollock's art and myth, but this late falling off is a vindication of them, and it baffles posterity's calm judgements. Briefly he had been rejected.

Until 18 April 1999
closed 2 April 1999

Monday-Saturday 10-5
Sunday 12-6

Admission £1
Concessions 50p

Room 90

Montague Place Entrance

BRITISH MUSEUM Recorded Information for disabled visitors 0171-637 7384

Life on the street and in a psychiatric hospital has only served to inspire painter Sergei Chepik. By Ian Phillips

IN 1988, SERGEI CHEPIK received a visit in his Leningrad studio from the Soviet censors. The painter's first masterpiece, an allegory of the paranoia and horror of the USSR, entitled *The House of the Dead*, had just been rejected for exhibition four times. He should, they advised him, adopt a more "positive" attitude — something he had always refused to do.

Realizing that there was no artistic future for him at home, Chepik obtained a tourist visa for France, shipped as many paintings as possible out of the country and arrived in Paris on 1 August 1988. Three months later, *The House of the Dead* won the Gold Medal at the Salon d'Automne. The following year another painting, *The Tree*, was awarded the Monaco City Award, and a one-man exhibition was held at the Roy Miles Gallery in Mayfair in 1990. Of the 102 works on show, only three were unsold. Critics hailed him as "Russia's foremost living artist," and "the new Repin." Margaret Thatcher commissioned a portrait from him, and Rudolf Nureyev

and Alexander Solzhenitsyn subsequently agreed to pose.

Chepkov met Solzhenitsyn in 1995 on his first trip back to Russia. The visitor also gave him with inspiration for his latest work, *Goldfish*, now on show at The Gallery in Cork Street, along with all the preparatory drawings and monotypes. "I really had the feeling that my homeland has become completely crucified by the terrible political, economic and social situation there," he told me at his Montmartre studio. "When I look at the current leaders, I ask myself whether Russia has a future, whether its civilisation will not simply be wiped out."

Golgotha's originality lies in the fact that Christ is represented only in the shadow of the cross. The viewer therefore finds himself in the position of the crucified, confronted by a crowd of on-lookers, whose expressions run from horror and pity to contempt and disbelief. The stifling midday sun and oppressive walls of the ancient city create an almost unbearable claustrophobia. Its impact is breathtaking.



It is not the first time that Chepil has depicted the Crucifixion. As well as a series of monotypes in 1987, he also completed a first version of *Golgotha* in 1989.

When we meet, he has just returned from the Venice Carnival, and a party scene in St Mark's Square sits on the

easel. Throughout the interview, he gets up regularly to touch it up. "Painting is a physical and intellectual necessity for me. I couldn't not paint, even if nobody saw my work."

He certainly seems to have been predestined to become a painter. He was born in Kiev in 1953, on Repin Street (named after the famous Russian artist). His father was a renowned painter. His mother is a sculptress and he asserts that "as far back as I can remember, I have always drawn". From 1971 to 1973 he studied at the Shevchenko Art Institute in Kiev, and then at the prestigious Repin Art Institute in Leningrad.

After graduation, he found himself literally on the street, as he spent nearly a year gathering the necessary papers for an artist's studio. Throughout that time he slept in rat-infested cellars, railway carriages and airport terminals. A doctor friend even arranged for him to live in a psychiatric hospital for two months so that he would have a bed to sleep in. "It was extremely unsettling," he admits "but

at the same time, very profitable. It was a time which was very rich in terms of the people I met, and allowed me to frequent all sort of drop-outs. It really formed my vision of the world and formed me as a painter." The sketches he made of the patients in the psychiatric hospital would, for example, later form the basis of *The House of the Dead*.

Other formative influences include the work of his "masters": Rembrandt, Titian and Velasquez. Chepk does not shy away from comparisons with big names of the past. "An artist today must measure himself against these champions and must be as good, or what is the point?" he declares. "When I started to paint Gogol, I knew I'd have to compete with the greatest masters."

How does he feel he has fared? "That's for time to tell," he answers. "As the years pass, either the painting will be remembered or forgotten."

The Gallery, Cork Street, London W1
(0171-287 8408) to 13 May.

HEALTH

The pregnant pause

Weeks of waiting for the results of prenatal tests can be traumatic. By Annabel Ferriman

When Polly Thornton was expecting her first child, she resisted having an ultrasound scan until she was 13 weeks pregnant because she did not want a hi-tech, medicalised pregnancy. At that stage, however, staff at the hospital told her that a scan was important and she relented. In doing so, she unwittingly launched herself, and her husband Alan, on to a 15-week roller-coaster ride of scans, tests and medical consultations, which only ended when Polly was six and a half months pregnant and refused all further tests.

The Thorntons' baby, Jessie, was born in March 1997, in perfect health and with no chromosomal abnormalities, but the couple's highly sophisticated, first-class medical care had turned the middle of Polly's pregnancy into a nightmare.

"When we went to that first scan, it was wonderful to see the baby move and to be shown the heart beat," Polly says. "But then the operator went quiet and fetched someone else. They both looked at the scan and looked grave. We asked whether there was a problem and they were evasive. We had to go back to the clinic and talk to a doctor."

"He told us that the baby's nuchal fold, which is the skin at the back of the baby's neck, was abnormally large and, as that could indicate a chromosomal abnormality, we would have to come back for another scan. Because we were going on holiday to Tunisia the next day, the doctors kindly arranged for a second one later that day. It was a clearer, state-of-the-art scan."

The new scan revealed, in greater detail, what the first one had suggested - that the nuchal fold was much larger than normal. Polly and Alan were told that the baby had a one in four chance of having Down's Syndrome. The senior doctor recommended that Polly undergo an amniocentesis (see box), which would provide a definitive diagnosis. That test could not be done until she was 15 and a half weeks pregnant, which meant waiting three weeks.

"It was devastating. It was only 12 days after the death of my mother. We went on holiday but we could not think about much else. We kept noticing children with Down's Syndrome everywhere. We didn't know what we would do if the amniocentesis was positive."

After the amniocentesis, the couple, who live in Lewisham, south London, had to wait another three weeks for the result. Much to their relief, it came back normal, but the saga did not end there. At her 20-week scan, Polly was told that an enlarged nuchal fold could also be a sign of a heart abnormality, so she was sent to Great Ormond Street Hospital for a heart scan. That turned out to be normal, but the doctor still recommended regular scans up to birth.

At 28 weeks, however, Polly, who is a writer and co-author of the book *Downshifting: The Guide to Hoppy, Simpler Living*, felt she had had enough. "I felt our medical care had



An initial ultrasound scan to detect chromosomal abnormalities usually takes place at 12 weeks

Science Photo Library

A GUIDE TO ANTENATAL TESTS

AN EARLY ultrasound scan at 10-12 weeks can reveal major abnormalities, such as anencephaly (absence of the brain) or missing limbs, and can show whether a fetus is at increased risk of Down's Syndrome. In Down's pregnancies the nuchal fold (the skin at the back of the baby's neck) is enlarged.

Biochemical blood tests at 15-18 weeks include one that measures

Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP): high levels may indicate spina bifida, although nine out of 10 women with raised AFP levels are not carrying an abnormal fetus. The triple test (also called the Barr's test) measures AFP plus oestriol and human chorionic gonadotropin; abnormal levels, taken together with the maternal age, give a risk factor for Down's syndrome. If blood tests indicate a high risk of abnormality,

diagnostic tests such as amniocentesis will be offered.

A later ultrasound scan at 16-20 weeks can detect spina bifida, heart-lip and abnormalities of the intestines, diaphragm and limbs. How much is discovered during a scan depends on the operator's skill and also the baby's position.

Amniocentesis is offered to women who have had an abnormal triple test result, or whose early ultrasound showed

an enlarged nuchal fold, or who are over 35 or 40, and therefore at greater risk of having a Down's baby. A fine needle is inserted through the wall of the abdomen into the womb to draw out amniotic fluid for analysis. Chorionic villus sampling (CVS), in which cells from the placenta are drawn off, can be performed at 10-12 weeks, but there is a slightly higher risk of miscarriage than with amniocentesis.

been good and the doctors felt that they were acting in our best interests. But by this time I had had five scans and wanted to feel like a normal pregnant woman."

Polly's experience is far from unique and raises an important question. How can the process of offering women screening tests for foetal abnormality be organised to minimise the trauma and stress?

Ms Joanne Dimavicius, director of the charity Antenatal Results and Choices (ARC), does not believe that it is possible to run a system that does not raise anxiety. "Anxiety is part of the testing process," she says. "Once an ultrasound operator has seen something on a scan which is a variation of the norm, that information belongs to the woman. It would be wrong to simply put it in the notes and not tell her. Unfortunately a lot of the abnormalities are what are known as 'soft markers' - they are associated with certain conditions but are not diagnostic of them. Many are of un-

certain significance."

Ms Dimavicius believes that the main way of relieving stress to parents is by providing information and time to listen to their worries. Her charity provides a 24-hour helpline which people can ring.

The doctor who pioneered the measuring of the nuchal fold as a screening test is Professor Kyriacos Nicolaides, professor of foetal medicine at King's College Hospital, London. He still believes it is a useful test but now recommends that it is used in combination with two other measurements - the age of the mother and the presence of certain hormones in the blood. Taken together, these measurements provide a reliable indicator of which mothers should go on to have an amniocentesis test.

"This combination of tests will detect 90 per cent of babies with Down's Syndrome," Professor Nicolaides says. The majority (19 out of 20) of mothers who go on to have an amniocentesis in these circumstances

will discover that they are expecting a normal child, but it considerably reduces the number of amniocenteses you have to do to pick up the vast majority of babies with Down's Syndrome, he explains.

Is there any way doctors can pick up chromosomal abnormalities without subjecting such a large number of women to an amniocentesis test? Professor Charles Rodeck, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University College London Medical School, thinks so. The future may lie in combining the results of the 12-week ultrasound scan with the blood tests now done at 15 weeks (the triple test) to detect abnormalities. "That way you should get a good detection rate for abnormalities and a lower false positive rate. In other words, fewer women would have to go on to have an amniocentesis."

Professor Rodeck adds that "with new rapid chromosome analysis, it is now possible to get the results back from an amniocentesis in 48 hours, in-

stead of the three weeks it used to take. Although rapid analysis cannot rule out every single chromosomal abnormality, it can eliminate the more common and more serious ones."

Polly Thornton thinks these developments will be useful steps forward. "The problem about being told that your child may have a serious abnormality and then not knowing for certain for many weeks is that you start instinctively denying your pregnancy just in case it never goes to term," she says. "All the weeks of uncertainty did not stop us bonding with our baby, but it had gone on much longer; we would have been much less prepared for her birth."

Helen Statham, a senior research associate at the University of Cambridge's Centre for Family Research, says there is no way of avoiding the stress of tests. "The trouble is, most women have scans for reassurance. But any test that can reassure you also has the potential to alarm you. Otherwise it is meaningless."

Doctors must be impartial

A KINDLY doc sent me an interesting circular last week. He had received it from an organisation that called itself Media Medics. It was headed "Paediatric vaccination: Formation of a national media network", and what it contained struck him, and me, as being somewhat sinister.

The letter was about the MMR vaccination which, unless you have been living on the moon, you will know was the subject of a major scare a year ago. Research by doctors at the Royal Free Hospital, London, linked the vaccine, which is given in the first months of life and is then followed by a booster just before starting school, with both bowel disease and autism.

The ensuing rumpus, which was widely covered in the media, led to a slump in MMR vaccination, raising fears that measles, mumps and rubella infections could rise. The link has since been discredited, notably by a panel of two dozen specialists hastily assembled at the request of the Government's Chief Medical Officer, which concluded the evidence of harm was simply not there.

That, however, has not reassured thousands of parents who fear that the safety of their individual offspring is being placed second to the need to protect the public health. They smell, in a word, that there was a conspiracy.

Into this emotional maelstrom step Media Medics. In their circular aimed at doctors who appear on local radio and in the regional press, they say they are seeking to form a network of spokespeople who are able to respond to media enquiries on MMR "to encourage balanced and factual information" on the issue.

Volunteers will be supplied with a "comprehensive briefing pack" telling them all they need to know on the subject. In return for their time, a payment (unspecified) plus expenses, is offered. "Local people need to hear local voices that they can relate to and trust," the circular goes on to conclude.

And who is sponsoring this public-spirited venture. I hear you ask? Why, Pasteur Merieux MSD, "the UK's largest supplier of paediatric vaccinations", the circular frankly admits. To redress the "emotional and one-sided manner" with which the debate about

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

MMR has been presented in the media, the manufacturers of the drug are proposing to pay tame docs, through Media Medics, to put the case for the vaccine.

It doesn't need me, a supporter of MMR vaccination, to tell Media Medics and Pasteur Merieux that they are shooting themselves in the foot. In a debate which is as highly charged as the one over MMR, the only surefire certainty is that anyone who takes hard cash for uttering an opinion on the subject will not be believed. Indeed, it is likely only to stoke the arguments of the conspiracy theorists.

When I put this to Dr Paul Stillman, signatory of the circular and the man behind Media Medics, he seemed abashed. He insisted he was against payment of large sums, which would be an inducement, but thought it reasonable to reimburse doctors expenses, apparently forgetting that the circular refers to the payment of an "honorarium" and expenses. He said: "What we do is, of course, not promotional. If it appears that way, I will be very unhappy." But what other way can it appear?

Tom Dick, head of corporate public relations for Pasteur Merieux, was equally cautious. He was unaware of the arrangement which may have been fixed through the company's marketing department, he said. The company wanted to put across the benefits of vaccination "because the anti-vaccine lobby tends to capture the high ground with emotive arguments", but he did not know of plans to pay doctors to do so.

Like most people, when I have a medical problem I look to doctors for independent advice. In matters of health, that independence matters more than in almost any other field. Doctors would be reckless if they were to squander it.

Dr Fred Kavalier will be back next week to answer your health questions

What your genes say about you

THE ERA of genetic testing is upon us, and one of the first uses to which it has been put is in prenatal diagnosis, to offer a woman the opportunity to terminate a pregnancy if she is carrying a fetus with a serious and incurable disease.

But few people really understand what genetic tests can do - and, more important, what they cannot do.

Part of the difficulty is due to the complex nature of biological inheritance and how it impinges on the health of the body. About 80,000 human genes make up the human "genome". Each person inherits two copies of a gene, one from each parent (except for those on the X and Y sex chromosomes). Each copy can be identical or can differ slightly but still function correctly - although they may produce different physical effects, such as eye colour.

Some copies can be so different from the "normal" forms that they do not function at all. Most genetic tests are based on being able to detect the presence of mutations that make these genes defective.

But having a single, defective copy of a gene does not

automatically result in the development of a genetic disorder. There are fundamentally three types of single-gene disorders. The first is when a single defective copy of a gene results in disease - a "dominant" disorder. In the second, both copies have to be defective to cause harm - a "recessive" disorder. The third is when the gene in question occurs on the X chromosome. These "sex-linked" disorders usually affect only males, but females can be healthy carriers. Haemophilia is a good example.

Scientists have discovered well over 4,000 inherited diseases caused by defects in single genes. Tests have been developed or are in the process of being developed to detect defective genes in blood, saliva or indeed virtually any body tissue, including hair.

A positive result does not always mean that a person will develop the disease. About 10 per cent of women who are positive for the breast cancer mutation on the gene BRCA1, for instance, never develop tumours. Similarly, a negative result does not mean a person will be for ever free of that disease. It may be that they carry

Tests for inherited disorders pose ethical dilemmas. By Steve Connor



Good health: it's all in the chromosomes

or develop, mutations in another part of the same gene that is not picked up by the test. Another difficulty is that although genetic testing can tell whether a person is at risk of a particular disorder, it is a sad fact that practically all genetic disorders are incurable.

Genetic testing on adults raises other ethical concerns. Take, for instance, cystic fib-

rosis, the most common genetic disorder of white northern Europeans. It becomes increasingly crippling for sufferers during childhood; one of the biggest problems is a build-up of sticky mucus in the lungs, making breathing difficult. Cystic fibrosis is a recessive condition, so a person can carry one defective copy of the gene in question without

any ill-effects. But if he or she has a child with another carrier, there is a one-in-four chance that their baby will inherit both defective copies and so suffer from the disease.

A test for the defective copy of the "cystic fibrosis" gene was the first genetic diagnostic to be made directly available to the British public, bypassing doctors. This caused consternation among government experts, who recommended that these over-the-counter tests should be properly regulated and controlled.

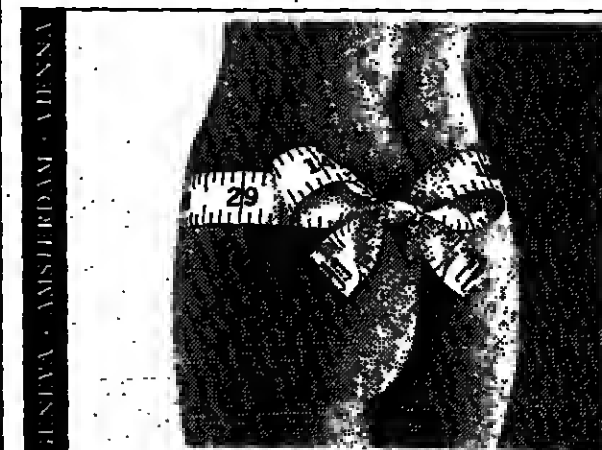
The Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing saw a "limited role" for such tests, believing that they should be made available to assess a person's "carrier" status only for inherited, recessive disorders, and recommended that people should have direct access to a genetic test only if the result had no direct health implications for the person being tested.

The problem really begins with tests to determine a person's future health. Many genetic disorders occur in adult life. The best example is Huntington's chorea, which results in slow physical and mental decline. Huntington's is not only

a late-onset disease, it is also dominant; if the test shows you have the mutation, it means that you are destined to die prematurely of a distressing, incurable illness.

The ethical dilemmas are exacerbated by the fact that a positive result impinges on other family members. If, say, a woman in her thirties decides to take the test because her father is dying of the disease, a positive result would also mean that her children are now at a calculable risk. They may prefer not to be burdened with knowing these odds.

As more genes are discovered, genetic tests will play an increasingly important role in determining risks of late-onset diseases. Some of these, such as Alzheimer's, heart disease and schizophrenia, may involve more than one gene, as well as environmental influences. Doctors of the future may be able to make good guesses about not just what patients are likely to die of, but when. It may help people to avoid a lifestyle that puts them at risk of premature death, but it will raise ethical concerns that we are only just beginning to comprehend.



Have a new bottom for your holiday.

Now lose inches exactly where you want. Figurella has worked for women all over Europe by creating for each individual a unique, personal programme of specifically localised, light exercise and life-style evaluation. Now let us create a programme that will work for you. With a Figurella Personal Advisor behind you every inch of the way, we guarantee you'll lose it. Or your money back.



FOR A FREE ADVICE SESSION CALL 0171 355 2929
New Bond Street & Guildford

MEDIA

The reviled revolutionary

His management style is loathed and the great and the good have lined up against him. But John Birt's record as BBC Director General will stand the test of time. By Ian Hargreaves

Will Sir John Birt be remembered as the director general who disembowelled the BBC as a creative force and set it on the route to marginalisation? Or as the man who steered it brilliantly through the most difficult period in its history?

This is a momentous year for the BBC. It must appoint a director general to succeed Birt and the Government must decide how much money the corporation will have in the years beyond 2001, on the basis of a report on funding from a committee chaired by the city economist Gavin Davies.

Not in the corporation's entire history has a director general been so widely and publicly reviled. Last week, in a House of Lords debate initiated by Lord Bragg, peers queued up to attack the "croak-voiced Dalek" (Dennis Potter) and his "pseudo-Leninist managerial methods" (Michael Grade). Among the critics was Lord Husey, who was chairman of the BBC from 1986 to 1996, during which time Birt became first deputy director general, then director general.

Husey cited approvingly the opinion of Raymond Snoddy of *The Times* that "the BBC is drowning in policy options and perpetual revolution. Less money should be spent on all those areas not directly connected with programme-making", adding that he feared "for the future of radio against the monster television... I do not think that it [the BBC] has got its strategy right".

This portentous oration was heightened by the opaque anxieties expressed by Bragg himself and made melodramatic by the bloody dagger of Lady James, the crime writer and former BBC governor, who struck out against a management "too rigidly controlled, too bureaucratic, too secretive and too arrogant" and too inclined to communicate in "that curious bureaucratic jargon which bears little relation

to the English language". Some of this poison has its source in particular episodes. Husey, whose wife is a member of the royal household, objected bitterly to the famous *Panorama* interview with Diana, Princess of Wales; Baroness James was of the anti-Birt party in 1992 when the governors plumped for him as DG by a single vote.

I, too, am familiar with the scene of the crime, having worked directly to Birt during Husey's chairmanship in the late Eighties. In 1993 I published a pamphlet suggesting that by 2005 the BBC licence fee would face a crisis of legitimacy, as the corporation's share of the audience fell towards 30 per cent. I advocated a new form of non-profit, mutual ownership for the BBC, capable of more readily tapping diverse sources of income including public subsidy, advertising and subscription, and providing a firewall against the party political interference that nearly undid the BBC during the zenith of Margaret Thatcher's power.

Although I am sure the issue of funding and ownership of the BBC is not dead, it is clear that I was wrong about timing. But Birt's position now goes much further: that the licence fee is here to stay and should be increased. Having appointed Davies, the Government has in effect conceded the case, since Davies is on record with a detailed, if rather contorted argument that any sign of weakness in BBC audience share should be rewarded with more and more public money.

But the undeniable point is that John Birt is about to leave the BBC with a strong position in all the important new broadcasting technologies, and in its best financial and political shape for 20 years.

Birt's achievement arises from two formidable personal qualities: his ability to focus upon strategy, not detail, and to organise his own time and that of his central team to that purpose; and his political skills, honed in his days at LWT's *Weekend World*. Birt's style, as

methodical in political socialising as in analysing the competition, propelled the BBC through the battlefield of Thatcherism and the nowhere land of John Major, and is about to be garlanded by New Labour.

When Lord Husey says that Birt has the "wrong strategy" and should "concentrate on its mainstream channels and invest in them" *Ge Test* cricket not 24-hour news on radio and television), he succeeds only in tying himself in knots, since he still supports the BBC's expansion into digital TV channels and Radio 5 Live. In any case, the big money is still at the core, you could buy a year of television's *News 24* and the whole of the BBC Internet service for less than the cost of Radio 3. The problem, which Husey does not attempt to solve, is that a BBC which has only a quarter of UK television revenues cannot bid for sports contracts in the way it did six years ago when the ratio was very nearly one to one.

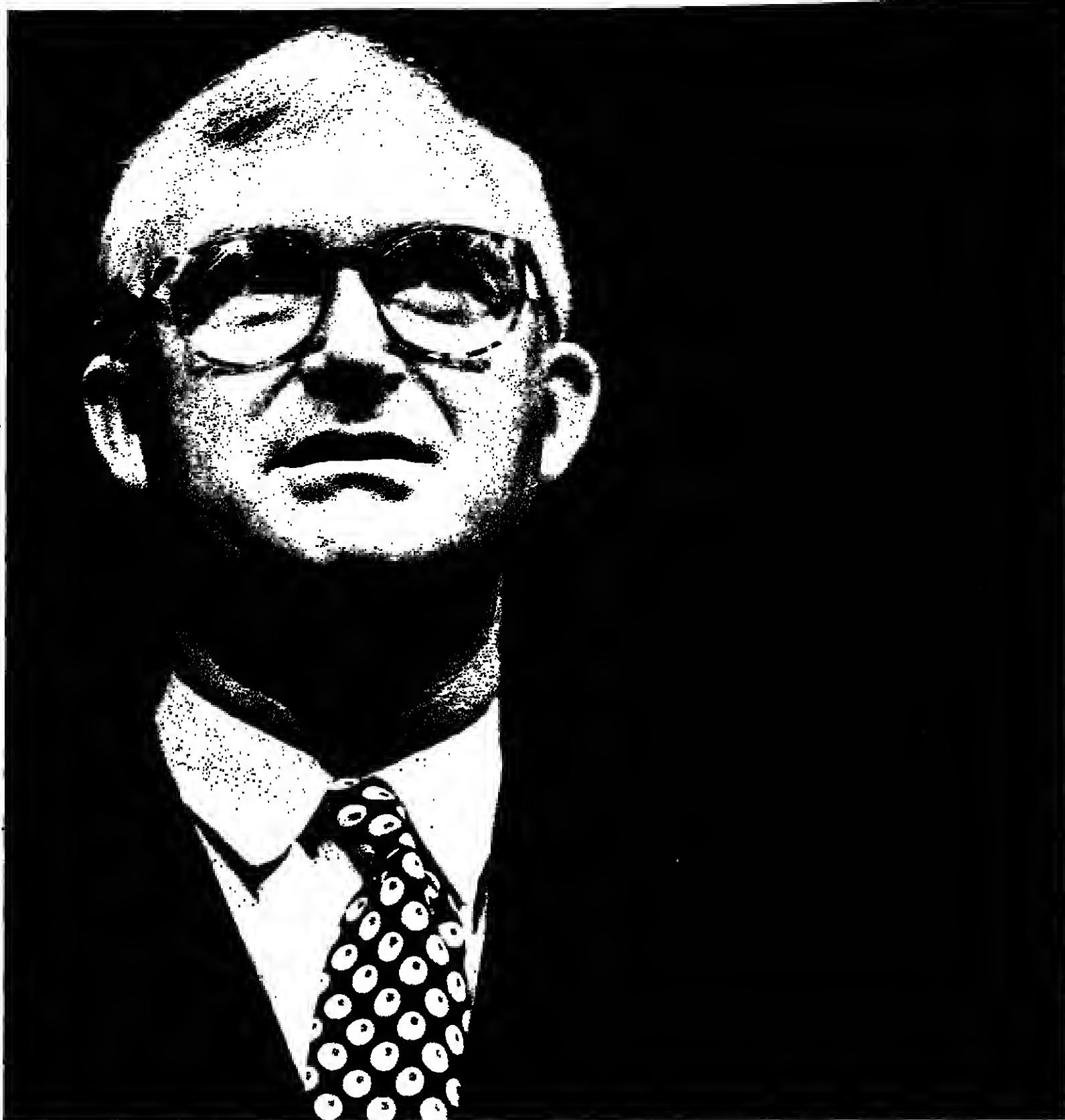
It is now plain that Birt has found the only strategy with any chance of sustaining the case for the licence fee into the next 10 or 20 years. By diversifying into new commercial ventures, he blocked the argument that the BBC is wasting the value of its archive; by going deep into digital television, he put the BBC at the heart of a major technology switch and opened the way for themed BBC channels on news, arts, education, history and science as part of the rich mix that rewards the licence fee payer. Most remarkably of all, Birt saw early on that the Internet would become a primary distribution channel for TV and radio. Today, BBC Online runs the most visited Internet services in Europe. By comparison, ITV is nowhere.

The effect of these moves on the politics of the licence fee is fundamental. The case against the licence fee is that it is compulsory and unfair, and that its legitimacy diminishes with the BBC's audience share as alternative TV and radio channels multiply. In practice, the BBC has contained the drift in its market share, while broadening the basic case for the licence fee by showing that even in the age of communications plenty, people want services of a type and quality not served up by the market. Indeed, the rise of the Internet strengthens this point in other ways, because here is a medium beyond the reach of effective regulation; the only way that governments can intervene is to support investment in superior content.

Lord Husey, paradoxically, conceded this point by noting: "when I arrived at the BBC I thought it had too much influence; I now think it has too little." This is precisely Birt's political masterstroke; politicians across all parties, bruised by Rupert Murdoch, want a big media player over which they have a different kind of influence, even though the BBC remains Britain's media giant. In short, New Labour is eating out of Sir John Birt's hand.

So why is Birt not acclaimed for this achievement? One reason is that the price of it has been to strip funds from existing BBC activities to help pay for the corporation's stake in the new media world. That has been painful for staff and has led to compromises on quality. But if the result is that the BBC is securely funded into the next decade, even the most scarred producer will eventually think the price fair.

The most difficult charge to answer is the claim that the BBC has become less creative,



John Birt's main weakness is not his management philosophy but the fact that he is a poor communicator

John Potter

and makes fewer good programmes. There is certainly no evidence for this in the corporation's record of winning industry awards in the Nineties – it typically carries off more than three-quarters in every contest, and BBC executives can list their major documentary and drama achievements to counter justifiable sneering at *The Venezo Show*.

The bottom line is that the audience figures are better than John Birt expected when he arrived at the BBC. He foresaw the TV audience share falling to 30 per cent, but in fact the BBC will see out millennium night with more than 40 per cent of the United Kingdom's TV viewing, and an astonishing 43 per cent share of all viewing and listening. Again, ITV has done much worse: its audience share diminished from 41 to 33 per cent between

1993 and 1998. For Birt's critics, the most unpalatable truth is that it is his loathed and parodied management style which lies at the very heart of his achievement. When he (and I arrived at Broadcasting House in the mid-Eighties, he found a constellation of committees and fiefdoms disconnected from the director general's office and even its board of management. It was a honeycomb with no queen bee. These arrangements may have been workable and perhaps even defensible in an era of abundant cash, when the BBC dominated British broadcasting. But by the mid-Eighties that era had closed. The fact that ITV persisted with a loose, ungainly federation explains many of its recent failures.

Today, Birt's central management team is well resourced (it accounts for 3.4 per

cent of BBC expenditure, not out of line with big private sector corporations) and capable of delivering strategic analysis and results at impressive speed. Novelists may not like the language, but that's the way they talk in business schools and board rooms. Birt's weakness is not his strategy, or his management philosophy, but the fact that he is a poor communicator – even those who work closely with him can feel cut off and demotivated, and most staff simply feel they do not know him.

At close proximity Birt is funny, clever, loyal and down-to-earth – but none of this is visible through the matrix of critical path analysis and programme cost per hour calculations. Like John Reith, Birt is an engineer who tends to assume that everyone else has a brain like his own. He has none

of Michael Grade's big showbiz talk or John Tusa's heroic gesture – but he's a much more skilled operator than either. It is perhaps a sign of his weakness with people that there is no obvious heir apparent within the corporation. But whoever gets the job will thank his or her predecessor for a position of strength unimaginable 10 years ago.

The least the new boss can do is to commission a decent artist to paint the outgoing DG – I suggest David Hockney – and to hang the portrait on the wall of the Council Chamber opposite that of John Reith. Let the two engineers stare at each other for half a century, because neither was loved at the moment of his greatest achievement.

The writer is professor of journalism at Cardiff University

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

寿司ガイド



Guide to Sushi

From its origins in Japan 1,000 years ago, Sushi has become a worldwide phenomenon.

The Independent on Sunday's Guide to Sushi, published on March 14, outlines Sushi's history and culture, and explains the different varieties. Learn to prepare sushi at home with a simple step-by-step guide, and unlock the mysteries of this delicious, fresh and nutritious food with the *Guide to Sushi*.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Asahi

Can Evans do a Star turn?

Chris Evans has to persuade Ginger's shareholders that he can work his magic in newspapers. By Paul McCann

ALL THAT is really known about Chris Evans's plans for the *Daily Star*, should he take control of it, is that he would make Mike Soutar the editor.

Mr Soutar is the man who turned *FHM* from a magazine selling 60,000 a month to one selling half a million plus. He knows about young men and he knows what motivates them to buy publications, so on paper he certainly seems like the man who could save the *Star*.

Weekend reports that Chris Evans's Ginger Media Group has been talking to the *Star's* owner, Express Newspapers, about swapping a 16 per cent stake in Ginger for the red-top were thin on details of what Ginger would do with the paper. All that emerges is the enigmatic phrase "a sport and television-led newspaper". The feeling seems to be that it can be updated into a daily "lads' mag" by one of that genre's inventors. But the very fact that Ginger

is looking at the *Star* casts some light on the current status of the Group's plans. Most people within Ginger Media are agreed that they have to make it less dependent on Evans. He drives the radio station, working on air six days a week on top of his *ITV Friday* show for Channel 4.

Although it was Evans's name which made the headlines, in reality the deal is Matthew Freud's Evans's PR man, who knows a lot more about newspapers than Evans, has been conducting negotiations with Nicholas Rudd-Jones, managing director of Express Newspapers.

But it does show that Evans is serious about expanding Ginger as a media company with a diverse portfolio. Ginger has a production arm, making television and radio programmes, and a distribution arm, which is the radio station; he was looking for a third divi-



Evans is serious about expanding Ginger Media

sion, to be separate from Evans. That was to be the *Star*. Holding Ginger back are Apex Partners, its minority shareholders and the venture capital company that lent Evans the money to buy Virgin Radio; and, to a lesser extent, Richard Branson, who took 20

per cent of Ginger Media when he sold Virgin Radio. The fact that the "Ginger to buy the *Star*" story appeared in six newspapers' business sections on one day has led those at the centre of the deal to believe it was leaked when Apex consulted City analysts. Apex

vetoed the deal at a meeting two weeks ago, but did not make its veto definitive. Supporters hope that the fact that Apex discussed it with the City means it is still possible.

Apex is opposed at least partly because it is worried that a share-swap deal for the paper would dilute its holding in Ginger. But it must also be worried that it backed Evans in the first place because he knows about broadcasting.

Branson has said in the past that he has decided against owning newspapers because, as a public figure, rival newspapers would turn against him and his commercial interests. For Evans the risk is that *The Sun* would turn against him.

The Sun sometimes seems like the in-house newspaper of Ginger Media, so often does Chris Evans's antics appear in its pages. This is a deliberate strategy and one which means that *The Mirror* is usually anti-

Evans. If he used Virgin to promote his *Star* and the *Star* got all his exclusives, *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail* could be added to his list of enemies.

For Express Newspapers, there has been talk of continued involvement and co-operation with the *Star*, which is a smoke-screen put up because the deal has gone public.

It is probably too late to try to make the *Star's* staff feel loved: circulation is down, staff numbers have been halved in a year and the general feeling is that management is embarrassed by the title's content and they want to be rid of it. In fact, under the Ginger deal the title would eventually move out of Express headquarters to a separate site.

The question now is whether Chris Evans and Matthew Freud want the newspaper badly enough to convince their backers that Mike Soutar can work his miracles again.

The open access slot *Video Nation* is five years old this week. Producers Chris Mohr and Mandy Rose choose their favourite films

My life as a fly on the wall

Imagine a retired army colonel, silver moustache, clipped accent, ramrod-straight back. Where would you expect to see him on television? And what could you assume about his political views and opinions?

When Gordon Hender was given the opportunity to record something he felt strongly about, it was the way his body had aged while his heart remained young. "Mirror" was the first *Video Nation* short ever broadcast on BBC2 and it's an archetype. Over the past five years, hundreds more unheard voices and unseen faces have popped up in the schedules – all indisputably part of British society but not generally part of our TV viewing, unless as subjects of issue-led programmes.

Video Nation has created a space where people can represent themselves in their own words as the rounded, complex beings they are, in the context of their own worlds. The slot also seems to answer a real hunger for inclusion. A tattooed biker summed it up when she said she wanted to show that people like her were "just like everyone else". And, as a Scottish fisherman put it: "I need to see myself on television to know that I really exist." There's a climate of disdain towards people's desire to be on TV – a rather English suspicion about parading the private in public – but it seems to us that this repeated desire for inclusion expresses a valid need to see one's life reflected in the public arena. The popularity of docu-soaps and chat shows attests to that desire in the audience, but do those programmes deliver everything that's being asked for?

And if *Video Nation* is different, what makes it so? Well, it's not the technology or the production process – it's the principle. There are two in fact, without which it simply wouldn't work. In the first place, people film to their own agenda; even when we suggest or encourage it's up to them how, when, where and even whether they film.

Crucially, though, they have editorial control over their own material, a policy unique to the BBC's Community Programme Unit. Most documentary makers are horrified by the prospect of sharing power with a non-professional.

But it frees our contributors to tell us stories which wouldn't otherwise reach the screen, either because we wouldn't know to ask, or

because they would worry about how that material might be used on TV, outside of their control.

The resulting insights they grant us into their everyday lives constantly challenge media stereotypes. A young black man is burgled; he complains bitterly of the decline in family values. An ex-miner living in Wigan who lost his job "under Maggie" admits he's done well ever since, and now wonders whether to vote Conservative. A gay man is overwhelmed with emotion when his heterosexual friends choose him as sole godfather to their first child. These people are so real you couldn't make them up.

The other discovery is that once the camera has become part of their lives people use it with enormous visual eloquence, developing their own individual style as if it were handwriting.

There's the Belfast GP who filmed a family outing in such a fluid sequence of hand-held shots that it was broadcast virtually uncut; and the disenchanted telephone engineer who, pre-May 1997, turned the camera away from himself to a dreary rainy view out of his window, saying "that's how a lot of people in this country feel about life today".

In a mass society that's quite fragmented, we need to be confronted with one another's similarities as well as our differences; and we desperately need the differences to be humanised. These recordings have a dignity arising from the fact that the contributor has chosen to turn the camera on in order to volunteer an image or an opinion. In the observational style which has come to be virtually synonymous with documentary on British television, the subjects become objects captured by the camera. *Video Nation* contributors are subjects of their own recordings.

You know a genre has succeeded when other programmes and TV ads start to copy it. It took a long time for *Video Nation* to seep into the public's consciousness but, five years on, a surprisingly broad spectrum of the viewing audience has been moved, amused and challenged by them.

It seems we've stumbled on a TV format which has brought access-programming into the mainstream and created a precious, ongoing connection with the audience the BBC serves.

Chris Mohr and Mandy Rose are the producers of *Video Nation*.



THIRTY-NINE WEEKS

"I can't stop touching it, wiggling it, cuddling it, moving it around, ... I can't help it – I've never loved any part of my anatomy so much." A full-frontal pregnancy is all you see for most of this short, while Jean Lee strokes her naked tummy and talks about her feelings for the unborn baby. Both bold and mesmerising, the shot allows us to invest the bulge with her emotions more powerfully than if we were just watching her talking.



LOO

A Scottish clan chief on holiday in Finland takes the camera from the cottage he's staying in to the outside loo. He's intrigued that the owners have decorated the loo with flowers, magazines, artefacts. "In this over-antiseptic world it's beautiful to find a place where nature is so completely respected. In all her aspects." It's a hymn to a side of human existence only ever mentioned on TV with disgust or as a joke.



SCARED

In a terraced house in Gwent a steel worker talks to camera about his fears. Tom Wals's gravelly voice provides an almost operatic accompaniment. "From 1979 until last year the only thing I've ever been afraid of was losing my Social Security. Since I've been working I've worried about losing my job." He talks of death, his love for his grandson, his belief in nuclear disaster, his indifference to the violence around him. It's a life laid bare in two minutes.



MOUSE

A delightful tale of a Belfast GP, his children, and a mouse. It's told in one brilliant developing shot that Orson Welles couldn't have bettered. With the humane mouse trap in one hand and his camera in the other, Mark McClean keeps up a witty commentary while filming himself, the children's reactions, the fields, the house – then hands the camera to his son to hold over the bucket. We wait, with bated breath, to see the mouse emerge.



ONE WEEK

"So we actually met at the service station. I was in a bit of shock because there were so many of her relations there." "I didn't even know his name, just had this photograph and that was it." "I just started babbling on, I said sometimes I had these weird dreams, and she thought I'd said wet dreams!" Sarbjit and Jatinder, describing their happily arranged marriage, challenge media preconceptions about traditional matchmaking.



SMOKING

It's late at night. A Seventies hit is playing. A couple are arguing about her smoking. They're drunk. He: "I've given up arguing." She: "No, you can't. If you give up arguing you give up life!" Anyone who has debated important issues after a few too many will smile, but it's also very moving. "If you smoke for however many years, that's going to reduce your life by however many years. And that's however many years I'm gonna lose you."



FULL MONTY

The act of filming is always a construct, but that doesn't make it a lie. A West Highlands fisherman, Ian Mackinnon, puts on a show for us with an amused/embarrassed attempt at a striptease. He also alerts us to a trend and explores male vanity: "Somebody suggested some guys strip to raise money for the village hall... and it's struck fear into every male under 70: fear that he will be asked [pause] and fear that he won't."



BUNGEE

This young property developer strapped a camera to his chest to film his first jump. It's about as close as you could hope for without jumping yourself. But shorts are most effective when they work on more than one level, and it's what Toby says as he hurtles through space that makes us connect with his exhilaration and sense of release: "If you're bored with your job and your woman has dumped you, do this – it's better than sex!"



MIRROR

A retired colonel spells out a word: "M-I-R-R-O-R, mirror. It's a ghastly thing to look, and see your face, what it is now, and what you feel it should be. One doesn't feel old, you know. But every time you look in that confounded mirror and see what age has done to your face, your body, your hands, that's what I dislike more than anything." It's all the more poignant for being delivered in the clipped tones of a man of his generation and class.

THE WORD ON THE STREET

ANYONE SEEKING clues to the priorities of Channel 4 under its new regime need only look at the scheduling and promotion of its disability series, *Access All Areas*. The first instalment, *The Half-Minute*, aired last Thursday, was a light piece about dwarf strippers which gave a positive picture of disability.

It was heavily trailed and the channel's PR machine got it the coveted "pick of the week" listing in all four TV jadsheets. It was broadcast at 8.30pm – one of Channel 4's best slots – which helped the show to a healthy 1.5m viewers. Then consider the fourth and last in the series. It is a challenging and important film about the education of a boy with Down's syndrome, which reflects none too well on our education system. It is being aired at midnight on a Monday – the worst night of the week for late-night viewing. Very brave.

THE AUDITOR's report which last week cleared the Radio Authority of *Newsnight*'s accusations of wrongdoing in awarding licences couldn't have come at a better time to rescue



the regulator's image. Admittedly it has a member of staff still on police bail, but before the report it was starting to become a target of Kelvin MacKenzie's humour. At an industry function recently he was introduced to someone from the authority and quipped: "Oh you're the bloke from Bung Towers".

UNBELIEVABLY THERE are even more sinister forces than the *Daily Mail* opposed to Channel 4's gay programming. Last week C4's offices in London's Victoria were picketed by some huffy meo opposed to the screening of *Queer Nation*. Holding placards describing the station as "Queer Scum", they handed out leaflets which

identified them as members of International Third Position. The TTP was set up in the Eighties after a National Front split. It is run by a Colin Todd from Newcastle, who has convictions for violence, and Roberto Fiore, who was convicted in a terror group in Italy.

THERE WAS AN uncharacteristic slip-up at Associated Newspapers this weekend when the *Mail on Sunday's* supplement *Sunday & Day* failed to manage its vaunted relaunch in much of the country. A note on page two of the main paper apologised to readers in the North-west because they wouldn't get their television listings. Helpfully, the apology said they might get their *Night & Day* if they went back to the newsagent later in the day, and would definitely get it if they came in for it on Monday.

Perhaps this is an idea for the future. As Sunday papers get bigger, their printing and distribution nightmares could be alleviated by staggering sales of the paper right across the week.

CLASSIFIED

THIS NEWSPAPER AND YOU

If you have a complaint about an item in this newspaper which concerns inaccuracy, intrusion, harassment or discrimination, write to the editor about it.

If you're still dissatisfied you can write to the Press Complaints Commission, an independent organisation established to uphold an editorial Code of Practice for the Press.

THIS NEWSPAPER ABIDES BY THE PCC'S DECISIONS

PC

1 SALISBURY SQUARE
LONDON EC4Y 3AE

Telephone 0171 353 1248
Facsimile 0171 353 8355

This paper has more than 100 years of experience



Chat Lines

Lots of love

X Girl

0894 88 85 33

CALLS COST ONLY 15p PER MIN

RED HOT LIVE Chat

0374 558 285

Unusual Gifts

A NEWSPAPER for this special date, 1999-1999, must have available, listed directly with the publisher. Tel: 0181-793 8383. Or CALL FREE 0800 820 000.

To advertise in this section please call Siobhan McCaul on 0171 293 2347.

House & Home

BATHE-EASY, THE ULTIMATE WALK-IN BATH, THAT NEEDS LESS SPACE THAN A NORMAL BATH

Easy access side entrance

CALL NOW 0800 018 0353

FREEPHONE

PLEASE TELL ME MORE ABOUT

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

RETURN THIS COUPON TO: BATHE-EASY LIMITED, FREEPOST, MD 19381, WALSLEY, WSD 88R

Legal Notices

PRINCIPALS LTD LIMITED
The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 96 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at 138 The Parade, High Street, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD1 1NS on Thursday 11th March 1999 at 10.15 am.

Proxies forms, accompanied by statements of claim, must be duly completed and lodged at the registered office of the company, 138 The Parade, High Street, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD1 1NS not later than 12.00 noon of the day before the meeting.

Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that James Anthony Murphy of Five Associates, 135 The Parade, High Street, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD1 1NS is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the company. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Five Associates, 135 The Parade, High Street, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD1 1NS on the two business days preceding the meeting of creditors.

By Order of the Board
Paul Michael Duffey, Director

COMCREST LIMITED
Company Number 1436234

Notice is hereby given that: A Special Resolution was passed on 4 March 1999 authorising the payment of not more than £257,364.60 out of the capital of the company for the purpose of the purchase by the company of certain of the company's own shares. The permissible capital payment was £232,486.60.

The relevant statutory declaration and auditors' report are available for inspection at the company's registered office, 4647 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LB.

Within five weeks immediately following the date of the above mentioned resolution, any creditor of the company may apply to the High Court under Companies Act 1985 section 716 for an order prohibiting the payment.

L. L. PATEL
By order of the Board

The Insolvency Act 1986
Banking Company Court No 203 of 1998
STEVEN PAUL MARSHALL
(in bankruptcy)

Off and carrying on business at The Old Bank of England, 100 Fleet Street, London, EC4A 3DF, the manager of a company, hereby carrying on business as a liquidator, hereby gives notice that he has received from the above named company, the sum of £77,000.00, and 9 Copeys Current Bank of England, London.

In accordance with Rule 6.124 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, I, David A. Right, of the Insolvency Act 1986, and to consider establishing a Creditors' Committee. A proxy form should be completed and returned to me by 12.00 noon on Monday 22nd March 1999 together with details of your claim. A proxy form may be obtained from me and will be sent to you on request. It is requested that you return this coupon to: BATHE-EASY LIMITED, FREEPOST, MD 19381, WALSLEY, WSD 88R

Hanging up the peashooter

Anthony Howard, one of Fleet Street's great mischief makers, has retired. His only regret is that he was never made Ottawa correspondent. By Ann Treneman

Anthony Howard is now a grand old man of journalism. He is 65 and newly retired. He has just received the Gerald Barry Award for Lifetime Service in the *What the Papers Say* awards. But at heart he is still a mischief maker.

At first, he will admit this only grudgingly. But, I say, your first act of journalism - writing an anonymous diary as a national serviceman - was something for which you could have been court-martialled. "Yes, well that is true. Yes. Hmm."

Then he warms to the theme. He says that someone has to be the one with the peashooter. "You know the first question Lord Beaverbrook asked me when I went for an interview in, oh, 1958 or so, was 'Do you want to make mischief?' I found that very appealing. But I didn't really believe him. He wanted to make mischief for Gaitskill and Labour but not the Tories."

The conversation had strayed yet again into political territory. This is the way with Tony Howard. Just when you think you've left the subject for good, he wiggles it back into the conversation. He almost became a politician several times over. In the end, each time, he chose journalism - or journalism chose him.

"I'm not sure it was the right decision. What would I most have liked to have been? Most of all, editor of *The Guardian*." When he joined that paper in 1959, he was forced to give up being a prospective Labour candidate. "I can remember when I went up to Manchester saying to myself, as you do when you are 25, what would you rather be, a Labour cabinet minister or editor of *The Guardian*? I came down for editor. So I think I may have made the wrong choice."

The last time I saw Tony Howard

he was a deputy editor and it was more than a decade ago at *The Observer*. There he was known as erudite, gossipy and good at making a decision. You would take a problem or a page proof into his room - it never seemed an office - and he would pause and have a think before making his decision. He never tried to fob you off.

He believes that he was in with a chance to become editor of that paper. In the end, Donald Treford stayed on and Tony says that he knew the game was up when Donald suggested that he might want to

'There was a move to court-martial me but luckily the commander said don't be silly, that's exactly what he wants'

go back to Washington. This was in 1988. "I said, you know I don't believe in going back. I'd done that in the 1960s. So I wasn't fired but the hint had been given."

It is fun to talk to Tony Howard. He has a wonderful memory for detail and he often comes up with exact dates or headlines or names from 30 or 40 years ago. He prepared for a career at the Bar at Oxford but then, as a national serviceman, couldn't resist writing for *The New Statesman*. It was his belief that no one in the officers' mess read the magazine and so he signed the last one. He quickly discovered that he was wrong. "There was a move to court-

martial me but luckily the commander, a man called Bernard Ferguson - that is with a double s by the way - said don't be silly, that's exactly what he wants."

He was making £5 a week in the Army and was offered a job at Reynolds News, which was "pretty second rate" but paid well at £1,500 a year. He wrote a young man's view of Parliament and had been in the job a few months when Lord Beaverbrook summoned him. Several job offers came of this but the politics were wrong and he decided to approach *The Guardian* instead.

This seems to have been when he really began his career. He took a pay cut, left his flat in London and his desk at the House of Commons for the delights of digs in Manchester. He worked in a room with lots of desks and two telephone booths. No one liked to answer the phone. There were no named bylines.

He left in 1961 to be political correspondent for the *New Statesman* and was then wooed to *The Sunday Times* to be the first-ever Whitehall correspondent. This was a disaster, not least because Prime Minister Wilson had issued instructions that no one was to talk to him. "It was a very frustrating period. I occasionally got some tiny chipolata in the paper but really it was nothing."

Out of the blue *The Observer* asked him to be its Washington correspondent. This was where he made his name but it was his next job, as editor of the *New Statesman*, from 1973 to 1978, that he says was his own personal high point.

He then had another flutter with the idea of politics. "I did indicate I was available for a seat. It would never have worked. Thank God it didn't. If it had, I would have gone into the Commons in 1979 and faced 18 years of opposition." Instead, he became editor of *The Listener* and,



Anthony Howard: Torn between journalism and politics, his career could have taken a very different route

Tom Craig

in 1981, went back to *The Observer* for what would be seven years.

He says he has always been "bi-media". He went to the BBC for a few years and is still always popping up on *Newsnight*. He finds such instant commentating much easier than writing, which only gets more difficult. "I now find that writing a serious article is rather mind-boggling." Does he procrastinate? "Oh yes. I'll do other things first. Like

write letters. Or do my VAT?"

In 1993 he took his last job, as obituaries editor of *The Times*. Legend has it that this was the job he wanted in what he calls the "evening of my days in journalism". In fact, he insists, the job he actually named was Ottawa correspondent - "a real deadbeat of a job". Whatever the truth, he has enjoyed editing the pages tremendously. "It became a more fashionable thing to be."

So what motivates him? Stories? Writing? Money? He has been proud of the odd story or two, though dislikes what he calls the "major row" school of journalism. Good writing is what he cares about most. He mentions Roy Hattersley and Alan Watkins. "But I don't think we have anyone today quite in the league of Bernard Shaw in his heyday or possibly Gore Vidal in America."

He has never gone anywhere for the money. He once shared a flat with Michael Heseltine and told him he did not see the point of making money from something like property development. "It is just boring." He is now ghosting Heseltine's memoirs. There may be another book, "something political". As I leave, I say he seems old-fashioned. He says he likes to think he's "modern". I find this so old-fashioned as to prove the point.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: MEDIA, MARKETING, SALES

FAX: 0171 293 2505

GENERAL MANAGER - LOCAL CONTENT TV PROGRAMMING

Very attractive package + Car

South

Turning creative ideas into commercial reality.

As the UK's leading integrated communications company, we have impressive credentials. We broadcast TV, Channels 4 and 5 and most UK independent radio stations to millions of homes, and are pioneers in the evolution of digital broadcasting and satellite services. We are the UK's third largest cable company and a leading Internet service provider. And we provide advanced telecommunications services to network operators, businesses and the emergency services.

As General Manager, your remit will be broad. You will be accountable for developing medium and long term business plans, putting in place the resources to achieve them and for ensuring that the service reaches and maintains profitability within the agreed timescales. This will require you to actively sell the concept, both within and outside of the business, and to ensure that a programme of high quality local content is produced and delivered.

This is a role that will have a major impact on the direction that local TV takes in the future. It requires a mix of commercial abilities, innovative thinking and people management skills of the highest order.

Candidates should be graduates, or certainly of graduate calibre, with several years' experience of turning consumer focused or business-to-business service ideas into profitable commercial enterprises. Whilst probably best suited to someone with a successful track record in the media sector, individuals from other customer focused businesses who have the necessary commercial and management skills, combined with a genuine interest in new media will be considered.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please send your CV to TNP Worldwide, Ref: 5509, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL. E-mail: response@tnp.co.uk

NTL The Digital TeleNetwork

ADVERTISING MANAGER & ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES

£10k BASIC OTE £30k

We require 1 advertising manager and 4 advertising executives to sell advertising space on local information boards across the British Rail Network. Selling to local businesses over the telephone, you should have at least 18 months media sales experience and trained to a high degree within a recognised sales structure, preferably AIDA or DIPADA.

We are based in prestigious offices in St. Katherine's Dock in the heart of the City.

In the first instance fax or send your CV marked PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL to:

STEVE GREEN

City-Info (UK) plc

World Trade Centre

1 St. Katherine's Way, London E1 9UN

TEL: 0171 680 0670 • FAX: 0171 481 9825

EAGLE EYES REQUIRED

Would you like to practice as a freelance proofreader or editor earning an excellent income working from home? Then mark the errors in this advertisement and post it to Chapterhouse with your name and a disc.

We send you a free prospectus of our services. Chapterhouse courses are respected internationally and our professional tutors give you your personal attention. We never pretend to be easy, but we have a seven-year record of establishing many successful businesses through our co-responsibility training and seminars.

If you're too busy a phone call will do.

Chapterhouse
2 Southernhay West, Exeter EX1 1JG
Telephone: 01392 499488
Facsimile: 01392 498008

ICA

Insurance & Contingency

Duty Manager (part time)

20+ hours per week, £8.17 per hour

The ICA's Duty Managers work evenings and weekends, under the direction of the Centre Manager, and at these times are responsible for the smooth running of the venue including Health and Safety, security and Customer Care.

The successful candidate will have previous venue management experience, an ability to motivate staff and communicate clearly and tactfully with the public. This is a responsible position and the post holder will be expected to demonstrate maturity and remain calm under pressure.

For an application pack please send a 49p A4 SAE to: Administrator, ICA, 12 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. Deadline for return of applications: Monday 22 March.

INDIAN DANCE TEACHER/Choreographer

Experience in Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Tigore's dance drama and folk dances of India.

32 hours a week. Salary £7,200 per annum.

Company based in Coventry and work nationally. Must be fluent in Bengali and Sanskrit.

Send CV

Closing date: 6 April '99

For further details please contact:

MRITIKA ARTS LTD

66 Bridgegate Gardens

Coventry CV3 2NN (UK)

CONSULTANT

Impact Limited helps multinationals to take active responsibility for their smooth in communities mainly in the developing world.

We are looking for someone with a post graduate degree in development studies and experience of working in the Asia Pacific region who wants to work with the corporate sector. An understanding of ethical investment and transnational capital flows to developing countries is essential.

If you fit this description, please send your CV to:

Impact Limited, Celtic House, 33 St John's News, London WC1N 2NE.

Senior Advertising Sales

required for Adam Magazine, the gay men's health and lifestyle magazine and Adam News the national lesbian and gay newspaper.

Excellent basic+comm +bonus

also

P/T Apple Mac Op/Designer must have magazine and newspaper experience.

Call Louise Mears on 0171 833 3399

m

0171-377 1600

RECRUITMENT MATTERS

A CAREER IN RECRUITMENT

OTE (1st year) £40,000 plus

Recruitment Matters has a well established and successful method refined over 12 years. Successful candidates will learn our approach to researching, interviewing, managing and closing the job changing process effectively.

We would prefer applications from candidates who already have experience of selling, but we are prepared to train candidates who have not sold before. Recruiters who have been successful in the past have come from various business to business sectors including management consultancy, office equipment, media, IT and financial services. The challenge and margins, both high in recruitment, derive partly from the comparative complexity of the sell. Understanding and managing your clients' and candidates' objectives and motivations is key to success. The sector in which you have been working is of less interest to us than your ability as a salesperson and your potential to build your own business. As personalities, candidates should be commercial, pragmatic, competitive and prepared to take risks, the last quality not least because our method is unconventional.

The rewards in the recruitment market are more accessible and growing more strongly than most similar markets. Historically the highest earnings performance by a new employee with no previous experience of recruitment exceeded £100k in the first year. Call Theo Slegers today. Please do not send your CV yet. To gain insight into our method, visit our website or call 0171-314 8297 for our views on some of the problems of CV's, or 0171-314 8299 for some of our general advice to candidates on interviews.

If these positions do not suit you, our website is regularly updated with current briefs.

Recruitment Matters, 15 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3EJ

Telephone: 0171-377 1600 Fax: 0171-377 1801

E-mail: theo@rmr.simpsonline.co.uk

Website: www.recruitment-matters.co.uk

London based Emergency Lighting Manufacturer Requires

Director of Operations - Middle East

The successful candidate will be a graduate with 3-5 years sales and marketing experience in the lighting industry in the Middle East.

An ability to recruit, train and manage sales teams, negotiate contracts and develop a customer base is essential as is a fluency in English and Arabic.

Salary negotiable

Contact David Wood on 0181 877 9904

or send CV's to:

MEW Ltd, Unit 6, 118-120 Garratt Lane,

Wandsworth, London SW18 4DL

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Friendly and informal yet highly professional Nanny/Domestic agency based in South Kensington requires a dynamic and organised 'peoples person' to run own department in a busy and often hectic office. A market leader in a specialist business that does not require 'cold calling'.

Excellent salary package.

Call 0171 225 1555 or

fax cv to 0171 589 4966

Recruitment Sales

Want to excel in a young exciting sales environment?

Aerotek Europe, a subsidiary of Aerotek Inc., is a leading International Technical Recruitment Consultancy involved in placing high-level contract personnel in the Telecommunications, Engineering, Secretarial, Datacoms and IT industries.

Due to exceptional growth we need to recruit young, fast paced, forward thinking individuals for our sales teams throughout the UK, to help in the search and selection of contract staff, with progression into Account Management and future Leadership opportunities.

If you are a team player hungry for success, determined, eager to learn, highly motivated and still looking for the ultimate career then cut through the Red Tape and have a Fast Track Career with Aerotek Europe.

Competitive Basic + Bonuses + Excellent long-term financial prospects.

Want to find out more?... Send your CV to:

International Recruitment

Aerotek Europe

223 Berwick Avenue

Slough, Berkshire

SL1 4QT

01753 775566

www.aerotek.co.uk

To advertise in this section please call the Appointments team on 0171 293 2547.

